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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Opposes U.S. Computers for Israel

LD0811180789 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab League, in a press communique which was issued today in Tunis, has called on the U.S. authorities not to export very sophisticated computers to the Israeli authorities. The call was made to avoid complications and dangers which might result, as well as concern to protect Arab efforts to establish peace in the Middle East. The communique pointed out that Israel, in cooperation with the U.S. company IBM, is working seriously to develop the ability to manufacture destructive weapons. It also cooperates in this endeavor with the racist regime in South Africa at a time when the world is witnessing an international trend toward a ban on the production and expansion of missiles and the lessening of international tension.

IBM Faces Arab Boycott

PM0811145189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Nov 89 p 7

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Karim al-Mudarris, secretary general of the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce, by Husni Khashabah in London; date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [Khashabah] To begin with, what position will be taken now that IBM has announced its intention of supplying Israel with the computer system?

[Al-Mudarris] I believe nothing is more dangerous than embarking on an action like that. If a company opens a car factory in Israel, for example, when it closes it down it will be able to open an alternative factory, or factories, in Arab states.

And if a company sets up a Coca Cola factory, for instance, in Israel, it will be able to close it and open factories for it in Cairo, Riyadh, Baghdad, or Damascus.

But if matters reach the point which we are witnessing today in the case of IBM, which is embarking on a strategic operation which will enable Israel to develop a hydrogen bomb, we must ask it: How will you be able to find a market in the Arab world?

And here I say that the boycott rules include articles stipulating a total ban on particular companies, and the official responsible for the Arab boycott against Israel can apply that principle—I mean the total ban—to that company or any company that embarks on a similar action aimed at aiding the Israeli military potential in such a terrible manner.

[Khashabah] And what will you do now? IBM did not hesitate to confirm to us (in AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT) that it had submitted a request to the U.S. Administration to allow it to sell the computer system to Israel. It also very confidently said: "Yes, we have submitted a request to sell the system to Israel."

[Al-Mudarris] Of course, it is saying that openly, because Israel itself does not conceal it. True, the U.S. Administration is hesitant and is said to be divided over the matter, but that split could be tactical and temporary. There is always a current supportive of Israel's interests in the United States, even though that is against the interests of the United States itself.

[Khashabah] Assuming that the U.S. Administration goes along with the current supporting Israel, what action do you believe should be taken?

[Al-Mudarris] The situation involves two aspects, or, rather, positions: that of the Arab states—and they have to react according to their interests and according to what they see as a duty in such a serious situation.

The other position is that of the boycott organs. The company must be boycotted completely and comprehensively. It must also be banned forever from entering the Arab market, especially as alternatives are available to us. [passage omitted]

[Khashabah] In view of the fact that the issue is currently being considered by the U.S. Administration—which will probably be the party that counts in the end because it will issue, or not issue, the license—do you not think that the boycott organs' move should be made within the framework of a more comprehensive political move?

[Al-Mudarris] I understand your viewpoint, but no one can decide for the Arab states the policy which they should pursue. They are independent, free states which draw up the policies they want. I myself separate the issue, despite its seriousness, from the political reality. This is because the boycott organs do not take account of the political reality; they take account of the security and economic reality.

The boycott organs react automatically without taking into account what might happen, regardless of whether the Arab states protest to the United States or express their discontent. That concerns the Arab states and the United States. And when the matter concerns the hydrogen bomb, the boycott organs act comprehensively and without any hesitation. [passage omitted]

[Khashabah] When do you expect there will be a deterrent response to IBM?

[Al-Mudarris] Within hours or days. And I believe that if IBM heeds the advice, it will probably backtrack on that action.

[Khashabah] Do you expect IBM to backtrack after the announcement it has made?

[Al-Mudarris] Perhaps. If it sees the Arab reaction strong and clear—and that is what I expect—it will probably backtrack on its action.

[Khashabah] Is IBM a member of the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce?

[Al-Mudarris] No. [passage omitted]

[Khashabah] From your long experience, what do you expect in the short period ahead?

[Al-Mudarris] One of two things: Either IBM will realize the seriousness of what it is doing, or it will overstep the bounds for reasons which we do not know but the U.S. Administration and IBM know—but that will be at the expense of the complete sabotage of its interests in the Arab world.

[Khashabah] Where will the operation against IBM now be launched?

[Al-Mudarris] From the boycott organs in Damascus, the main office, and from the regional offices in other capitals.

Palestinain Affairs

Official Says PLO 'Will Never Accept' Baker Plan

PM0911155089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Nov 89 pp 1-2

[Zaki Shihab report: "Senior Palestinian Official Says: PLO Will Not Accept Baker Plan"]

[Text] Cairo, London—A senior PLO official has stated that the PLO will never accept U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan now that its aims have become clear, for it seeks to exclude the PLO from the settlement of the conflict.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, the senior Palestinian official said that the amended Baker plan is a carbon copy of the Shamir plan which, at best, would lead to nothing more than elections according to the Israeli prime minister's proposal.

The Palestinian official, who is a member of the PLO Executive Committee, said that the amended U.S. plan runs contrary to the Palestine Central Council resolution adopted in Baghdad about a month ago, which emphasized that the dialogue must be between Israel and the PLO and laid down clear limits stipulating, most significantly, that the dialogue is primarily a part of a preparatory process for an international conference which, it recommended, should be under international supervision and sponsored by the United Nations.

In its Baghdad statement the council stressed that the PLO would form the Palestinian delegation, which would take to the dialogue a Palestinian initiative which has in fact become an Arab and international peace plan based on international legitimacy and resolutions.

The Palestinian official affirmed that the new U.S. plan would fail if it tried to ignore the PLO, as have other initiatives which tried to do the same in the past.

The PLO Executive Committee is expected to meet in Tunis today to discuss the plan and define the PLO's position on it.

'Arafat on Baker Plan, Mubarak Proposal

NC0811153489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 8 Nov GMT 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat has expressed his appreciation for the positive role that President Husni Mubarak and Egypt are playing in support of the Palestinian issue at Arab, international, and domestic levels. He once again reiterated his welcome for President Mubarak's proposal to hold a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo as a prelude to convening an international conference on the Palestinian issue and the Middle East.

In an interview with the Egyptian weekly magazine AL-MUSAWWAR to be published on Friday, 'Arafat said that Egypt is coordinating with the PLO in all moves related to the peaceful march. He noted that all the steps in this regard are made through bilateral consultations at all levels, at both the highest level and other political or non-political levels.

'Arafat again denounced the statements made by George Habash, adding that these threats affect him as well. He noted that these statements have been denounced both at Palestinian and at Arab levels, because they are outside the framework of democracy.

'Arafat was then asked about the multiplicity of Palestinian views and the fact that they sometimes contradict and are in conflict with each other, thus weakening the Palestinian cause. President 'Arafat said there are no differences of view regarding the Egyptian role. He added: We are a democratic establishment, and because the Palestinians are dispersed, information sometimes takes a while before reaching the top level. This, added to the anxiety felt by the Palestinian people, facilitates the formation of various opinions on the same topic at the same time. He stressed, however, that the resolution adopted in the end will be binding for all.

Regarding U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals and the latest amendments to them, President 'Arafat said the PLO had requested several explanations [istifsarat] from the U.S. side on these proposals. We are still waiting for the answer, he stated, adding: It is clear tht the U.S. Administration is adopting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's viewpoint, and not that of the Israeli Government. It is adopting Shamir's plan and it took a neutral stand regarding Egypt's 10 questions, he added.

Regarding Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens' declaration that one of the main amendments introduced to Baker's proposals is gives Israel the right to object to any member in the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue,

'Arafat responded by asking the United States: Are the proposals now under discussion Baker's or are they Arens' or Shamir's?

President 'Arafat stressed in his interview that the PLO refuses to be left out of the peace process, and that it is committed to the international resolutions issued by the United Nations in this respect, especially Resolution 176. It is also committed to the resolution adopted by the Arab summit when it adopted the Palestinian peace initiative, which the United States completely ignores, he asserted.

Regarding Palestinian-Jordanian relations, the Palestinian president pointed out that they are distinguished ones governed by solid ties linking the two peoples. He added that in future these relations will be based on the basis of confederation between Jordan and the State of Palestine. This was agreed upon with His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, who stressed that he will never negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians, 'Arafat declared.

Turning to the Lebanese issue, particularly in the wake of the al-Ta'if agreement, and bearing in mind that the issue of sovereignty there is not settled, the Palestinian president said that there is an Israeli-American conspiracy, in which some Arab parties are involved, to divide Lebanon.

Hawatimah Rejects 'All Settlement Schemes'

JN0811132489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] In Damascus, Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], declared his rejection of what he called the settlement schemes that are being proposed—that is, the Shamir plan, the Mubarak plan, and the Baker plan. Hawatimah believes that Washington is trying to prepare an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo behind the back of the PLO based on the Shamir plan. He said: The destiny of such attempts is failure because they ignore the PLO.

Israel 'Confusion' Seen in Baker Plan Approval

JN0911082689 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1950 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Political commentary: "The Confused Israeli Policy Whether To Admit Facts or Hide Behind Detail"]

[Text] Brothers, sons of our great Palestinian people; last Sunday, 5 November 1989, the Zionist entity's inner cabinet approved the five points presented by the U.S. secretary of state, known as Baker's amended plan, which centers around negotiations between two delegations—a Palestinian and an Israeli—concerning elections in the occupied territories as an introduction to a permament and comprehensive settlement based on materializing the firm rights of our Palestinian people. The inner Israeli Cabinet meeting to discuss Baker's proposals lasted 3 hours. Approval of these proposals was reached by a majority of nine members, six of them from the Labor Party and three representing the Likud Bloc. They are Yitzhaq Shamir himself, his Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, and a third minister from the Likud Bloc. These proposals were opposed by three ministers: David Levi, Ariel Sharon, and Yitzhaq Moda'i.

Israeli approval of the U.S. secretary of state's proposals was also accompanied—as expected—by the well-known Israeli elements of belligerence. The Israelis are asking their U.S. ally that the Palestinian delegation not include PLO representatives and that negotiations center on the technical aspects dealing with elections only. Shamir will seek U.S. approval of these two conditions during his expected visit to the United States in the middle of next month. Observers see Israel's recourse to such conditions as useless, since it has been forced to agree on the principle—that is, the necessity of negotiating with a Palestinian delegation. Therefore, such reservations or details clearly indicate confusion—the result of Israel's inability to objectively and essentially differ with the U.S. Administration.

Concerning this topic, THE WASHINGTON POST says the Israelis know that the PLO will undoubtedly directly or indirectly manage any Palestinian delegation. David Levi openly admitted this when he said: The inner cabinet's approval of Baker's proposals is the start leading to recognition of the PLO and setting the cornerstone for the Palestinian state.

The Israeli inner cabinet's vote received the approval of most Israeli political blocs and parties within the Zionist entity, such as Ratz, Shas, Agudat Yisra'el, and Mafdal. It was opposed by the racist Tehiya movement. As for Rakah, it called on Israel to take the step of recognizing the PLO.

It is clear from the development of stands in the enemy government that its attempts to ignore the great facts and take control of changes and factual developments have failed, especially since our heroic people's just struggle under the leadership of the plo, their sole legitimate representative, is a struggle propelled by two wings of power. The first wing is represented by the continuation, escalation, and comprehensiveness of the blessed and heroic intifadah, which today ends its 23d month and prepares with great vigor, strength, and confidence for its third year. As for the second wing, it is the Palestinian peace process declared approximately a year ago by the Palestine National Council in Algiers, which received Palestinian and Arab unanimity represented by the Casablanca Arab summit, and international unanimity represented by the developed Japanese, EEC, Nonaligned, Islamic countries, and African countries stands, in addition to the firm and supportive stands of the Soviet Union and the PRC.

Above all this, the Palestinian leadership—the PLO leadership—has worked throughout the past to manage the struggle basing itself on two major axes. The first is

represented by strengthening the basic principles of the Palestinian peace initiative; the second is represented by serious action to push the exerted efforts forward, not to allow such efforts to stall, and to make them interact with an open, active, and effective dynamism to continue the international push in favor of the Palestinian peace process.

The Israeli-U.S. policy centered throughout the past decades on one concept — rejecting all peace initiatives and placing obstacles in their way and then presenting the picture as though the PLO is the rejector and hamperer. This Israeli tactic has fallen completely where the Palestinian leadership, backed by international legitimacy, has succeeded in showing vital interaction with any effort exerted for peace and guaranteeing the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. The Israeli tactic of fragmenting the PLO and the Palestinian people's unity between those inside and those outside has firstly been revealed, secondly been overcome, and thirdly been turned against Israel itself. This is the current prominent feature of Israeli policy; the feature of clear and obvious confusion between the necessity of recognizing the great Palestinian fact which cannot be ignored on the one hand, and resorting to details and petty quarrels on the other to conceal the dangers of the internal disputes inside the Zionist entity and for fear of the disintegration of the forces, parties, and political groupings inside the Zionist entity itself. These are details that will not yield any results and from which the Zionists hope to gain some time—something that they have been counting on in vain for a long time. They used to believe that they could terminate the heroic intifadah; however, 2 years have gone by without any benefit or use, although the Israelis have used all opportunities, resources, and means available to them. The intifadah is stronger. Israeli terrorist efforts led only to one result, which is the suffocating isolation besieging the entity, the losses burdening it, and the dangerous possibilities threatening the region in general.

Greetings to our heroic Palestinian people. Greetings to the PLO, the leader of our great struggle. Revolution until victory.

Palestinian Reaction to Baker Plan Mixed

LD0911121689 Kuwait KUNA in English 1103 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 9 (KUNA)—The U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point plan for Israeli-Palestinian talks Thursday draws reaction by ranking Palestinian leaders ranging from absolute rejection to acceptance subject to certain conditions.

The secretary general of the Democratic Front for Liberation of Palestine, DFLP, Nayif Hawatimah, interview by the daily "AL-WATAN", published here today, categorically rejected the American plan saying it was "cancelling the role of the PLO" and its representation of the Palestinian people in choosing the delegation that has been suggested to talk peace to the Israelis.

Hawatimah accused Washington of aiming to "exclude the PLO from current political drive in the region" and reiterated that the organization strongly opposes any attempts aimed at depriving it from, the right for composition of any negotiating Palestinian delegation.

"We will not allow anybody to intervene in choosing our delegates to any peace talks, particularly, Israel," the DFLP leader said, stressing that "The PLO also rejects any sort of guardian by the United States or Israel on Palestinian people's decision."

He stated that the PLO will adhere to its demand for convening an international Mideast peace conference "as an appropriate framework for peaceful settlement" and said the proposed talks between Israeli and Palestinian delegates could only by accepted as a preparatory dialogue for holding this conference.

Member of Fatah Central Committee, Khalid al-Hasan told "AL- ANBA'" daily that the PLO has not yet formally received the official text of Baker's plan, "when we receive the terms of the plan formally, we will discuss it thoroughly and adopt the appropriate decision," he said.

Al-Hasan blamed Washington for heeding Israeli demands regarding Baker's plan and for amending the terms of the suggested Israeli- Palestinian talks in Cairo.

He said the U.S. Administration by amending the five points proposed by Baker to give Israel the right for rejecting the composition of the Palestinian delegation, has obviously abandoned its peace overture to back the so-called election plan of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

Palestinian ambassador to Cairo, Sa'id Kamal on Wednesday was quoted by an American daily as saying that the PLO was considering acceptance of Baker's plan provided that the United States agrees to receive a senior PLO official in Washington.

He said the organization is still striving so as to adopt a final resolution concerning its formal reply to Baker's five-point plan.

The PLO Executive Committee is due to meeting in Tunis later today to review Baker's plan and take a final stance toward it.

Al-Hasan Urges Amendment of Israeli Conditions

NC0911114889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Tunis, 9 Nov (MENA)—Khalid al-Hasan, head of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Palestine National Council, has urged the U.S. Administration and the Israeli Government to alter Tel Aviv's conditions concerning the five-point plan of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. He also urged the Israeli Government to recognize the PLO, since only the PLO, and no one else, has the right to form its delegations.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Tunis, al-Hasan expressed the belief that Israel has discarded the Baker plan and approved something new, namely its own conditions. He added that if Baker approves or welcomes the Israeli conditions, he will thus be abandoning his five-point plan and adopting a new thing called the Israeli conditions.

Al-Hasan called on the Arab states, above all Egypt, to request the United States to adopt a clear-cut, frank, and unbiased stand toward peace. If the United States is unable to do this, let James Baker wait until he is able to adopt such a stand. This is because the countdown for the style of the current Palestinian struggle has started, without this meaning that the Palestinian peace program will be discarded.

Al-Hasan said that the Palestinian command will hold an expanded meeting in Tunis today to adopt the appropriate stand toward the Baker plan. [passage omitted]

PLO's Sha'th Faults U.S. on Dialogue

JN0811210489 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 6 Nov 89 p 11

[Interview with Dr Nabil Sha'th, chairman of the Political Committee of the Palestine National Council, by Husayn Tantawi in Riyadh; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Tantawi] Have special studies been prepared on the economic structure of the new Palestinian state?

[Sha'th] The new state still faces a great struggle to overcome the obstacles placed in its way, including the slow pace of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. The Palestinian people view this state as a state for all Palestinians with holy Jerusalem as its capital and Gaza as its port. This requires the building of a deep-water port. This state must not have any link to Israel. Therefore, electrical power generation networks and water stations must be built. [passage omitted]

[Tantawi] You referred to obstacles obstructing the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. What are the proportions of these obstacles?

[Sha'th] The United States initiated the dialogue in December 1988 under intense pressure from the intifadah and the Palestinian peace offensive; from the Arab states headed by Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq; and also from the Soviets and Europeans. We still recall how European pressure intensified, particularly when Sweden was mediating and when France interceded when the United States refused to grant President 'Arafat a U.S. entry visa to speak before the UN General Assembly in New York. Thus, European, Arab, and Soviet pressure, helped move the UN debate on Palestine to Geneva and forced the United States to begin its dialogue with the Palestinians.

This is how the dialogue was launched. Then, the United States announced its recognition of the PLO and added that its dialogue with the PLO would be objective and vital in leading to peace. However, when the Arab, European, and Soviet pressures on them subsided, the Americans began looking for a way out for themselves and for the Israelis. The first ray of hope for them came in the form of the notorious advice given to the Israelis by Kissinger, asking them to kill as many Palestinians as they wanted, but not in front of U.S. television cameras. That is, the Americans and Israelis were advised to impose a news blackout on the intifadah to prevent it from moving the conscience of the U.S. public. This has actually happened. Now, we hardly see any footage on the intifadah on U.S. television networks.

One more thing, they [the Americans] created for Israel the so-called Shamir plan. This Shamir device is called "a plan" mistakenly, as it seeks to achieve no objective other than that of wasting time, in the hope of weakening the intifadah. Besides, the Soviet Union has been rocked by internal tremors and regional and ethnic problems caused by the initial stages of perestroyka. Consequently, the Soviet Union has ceased to be a source of real and forceful pressure. Moreover, the Arab region has also been weakened by the intensification of the Lebanese crisis, which now preoccupies the minds of the Arabs.

Hence, the United States' feeling that the pressure had subsided caused it to turn the dialogue into "a dialogue of the deaf." That is, the United States is neither holding a dialogue with us, nor listening to us. It is attempting to dictate to us; and we are not prepared for that. Besides, we have nothing to lose and there is nothing to go back to. Our cause is crystal clear. We have resorted to international legitimacy. This commitment to international legitimacy was asked of us by all forces and parties, including the United States, as the price for launching a serious dialogue with us to put things right. The United States is currently showing intransigence and evading its contractual obligations with regard to the launching of the dialogue. This is a serious international precedent. The United States does not have the right to back down on its pledges. However, it must be said that great powers know no language other than that of force and their interests.

In general, we are ready to go on with the dialogue and will not retreat from the course we have set out in terms of peace or war, whether through the intifadah or negotiations. Now that the al-Ta'if meeting has ended successfully with the endorsement of the charter of national reconciliation, the call for presidential elections, and the calm security situation, we hope that this will result in further Arab concern for the Palestine question and in the imposition of the right path on the Palestinian-American dialogue.

[Tantawi] Where do the 10 Egyptian points stand in light of this?

[Sha'th] The 10 Egyptian points were an attempt to place Israel under the international hammer. The Egyptian points sought to explain the Shamir plan. The United

States agreed that Egypt make this proposal and considered it a positive attempt on the part of Egypt for the return of dialogue and for encouraging the political march. But, what has happened? Israel rejected the 10 Egyptian points; meanwhile, the United States failed to embark on any initiative despite the fact that it considers Israel the intransigent party, and neither did it put any pressure on Israel. The 10 Egyptian points were not presented to the PLO but as questions to Israel. The role of these points ended with Israel's final rejection. The pressing question now is the following: Where do we go from here? The issue, in fact, is in the hands of the Arabs who should say to America that this is not what we agreed on when we began the dialogue. We, as Palestinians, will continue the march of peace.

[Tantawi] What about the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue?

[Sha'th] The PLO has always declared that it is ready for any dialogue that will lead to the international conference and to peace. It has clearly stated that any Palestinian-Israeli dialogue must be under UN sponsorship in the presence of the five permanent members of the Security Council as well as Egypt and Sweden—Egypt for the historical role it has played and is playing in an attempt to place the question on the path of peaceful solution, and Sweden for the special role it played in getting the United Nations to move to Geneva and its other contacts with the United States, Israel, and European states in order to place the issue on the path of peaceful solution as well. Our condition for dialogue was that the agenda be open; that is, without limits or conditions. Our condition was that the dialogue be held by a Palestinian delegation named by the PLO from inside and outside the occupied territory. These are our conditions for the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue that will lead to the international conference.

[Tantawi] Do you believe that the international conference is imminent?

[Sha'th] We see it far away and we see it close. The issue depends on one thing—that is, Israel's response to the course of peace. The Palestinians have sacrificed more than any other people. So far, we have lost 1,000 martyrs, 40,000 wounded, and 50,000 prisoners. This takes place while we are accepting international legitimacy. What remains is that the Arab nation speak up. America's interests in the Arab world have no limits. America says that it cannot put pressure on Israel; this is incorrect. America gives Israel $7 billion each year as well as supply it with weapons and military hardware. America also protects Israel from any international condemnation. [passage omitted]

PLO's Qaddumi Interviewed on Dialogue

PM0811185589 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 3 Nov 89 p 12

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of PLO Political Department, by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Qulaybi] At a news conference in Cairo Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] called for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. What would be the purpose of such a dialogue?

[Qaddumi] International efforts are being made to bring about meetings between a Palestinian delegation and an Israeli delegation. That is the natural thing to do to promote negotiations aimed at ending the Israeli occupation of the occupied Palestinian territory, which is the essential point. There undoubtedly is a certain mechanism for settling the issue, and that mechanism is an international conference with the participation of the Security Council's permanent members within the UN framework. It seems that some parties are pressing for preparatory talks between the parties concerned and intermediaries to pave the way for the required mechanism, which is an international conference held at the appropriate time.

[Al-Qulaybi] Does the Israeli side agree to such a dialogue with the PLO?

[Qaddumi] I do not believe the Israeli side agrees to such meetings, because the Israeli Government is still intransigent and recognizes neither the Palestinian people's legitimate rights nor the PLO as their sole legitimate representative. The Israeli Government is still obstinate and is bent on complicating the efforts made for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace.

[Al-Qulaybi] Logically, the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue should succeed and then be followed by a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue at a later stage. What do you thank of that?

[Qaddumi] There is no such thing as Palestinian-Israeli dialogue; there is such a thing as negotiation. We want to repeat this a thousand times because Israel is our enemy and we are continuously fighting it. Negotiation between two enemies for a political settlement is what applies to us and Israel. Dialogue is something we hold with other states not in direct conflict with us in this bloody confrontation.

There can be no doubt that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue has achieved no results. The United States has not made advanced steps in that respect.

[Al-Qulaybi] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly has recently stated that his country would not recognize a Palestinian state but would recognize autonomy for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza that was acceptable to the Palestinians, Israel, and Jordan. What has the Palestinian side in the dialogue done to change that position?

[Qaddumi] U.S. recognition of the Palestinian national rights will not come through the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. Continuation of the intifadah is what will force all powers to recognize our Palestinian rights. If it were not for the intifadah the United States would not have opened a dialogue with us. To us, the dialogue meant entering the United States and working to enlighten U.S.

public opinion on the Palestinian cause and the just struggle of the Palestinian people. In that domain we have actually made some tangible progress over a short period of time. We believe that continuation of the intifadah will bring more gains.

[Al-Qulaybi] Do you believe that there has been real and genuine development in the U.S. position on the Palestinian question?

[Qaddumi] There has been no genuine or real development in the U.S. position and we do not hold out much hope for such a development, but there has been a major development in the European position and the position of the Scandinavian countries. The position of the socialist states is firm and there has been an improvement in the positions of the Islamic, nonaligned, and African states.

[Al-Qulaybi] But to what extent could these positions affect the Palestinian question in the absence of an advanced U.S. position?

[Qaddumi] I believe that the progress made by the Palestinian cause in Western Europe and Japan is significant and it nearly fulfills the targets set by the PLO at this stage.

[Al-Qulaybi] Do you believe that such progress could affect the international position on the Palestinian question?

[Qaddumi] Yes. Israel is actually the result of an international equation and not a result of war, as some like to make out. If world public opinion supports the Palestinian cause, which is the case at present, then Israel will have to give in to world public opinion because it will not be able to survive if it continues to resist the historic international current moving in the direction of establishment of a Palestinian state on Palestinian territory.

[Al-Qulaybi] Former Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi has recently urged renewal of a European initiative in support of President Husni Mubarak's plan to coincide with President Mitterrand's assumption of the presidency of the European group. What is required of Europe now?

[Qaddumi] What is required now is a meeting of the permanent members of the UN Security Council to form a preparatory committee to prepare for an international conference to be attended by the parties concerned as well as the permanent members of the Security Council, within the UN framework. Without that it would be difficult to establish a just and lasting peace in the region.

[Al-Qulaybi] Will Abu-'Ammar attend the 44th session of the UN General General Assembly?

[Qaddumi] He is unlikely to attend the session from the beginning, when it will be at the level of foreign ministers, but might attend when the Palestine question is discussed in December. At any rate, the matter is still under discussion.

[Al-Qulaybi] The entry visa to the United States for participation in UN meetings—does it come under UN or U.S. jurisdiction?

[Qaddumi] Under the UN-U.S. agreement the United States is committed to grant the Palestinian delegation a visa.

[Al-Qulaybi] What can the PLO do to speed up settlement of the Lebanese crisis?

[Qaddumi] The PLO is willing to provide anything asked of it. For example, we are prepared to provide observers, along with the Arab states, to ensure free Lebanese elections. We really care about Lebanon's sovereignty and security. After all, we are guests in Lebanon.

[Al-Qulaybi] Back to the central Arab issue, how do you view the prospects for the Palestinian cause?

[Qaddumi] The prospects are open. In our actions we are optimistic.

[Al-Qulaybi] Some people claim that the Palestinians are torn between moderation and extremism, or rather between a peaceful settlement and a military settlement.

[Qaddumi] That is not true. The Palestinians are moving firmly and steadily toward their desired objective.

[Al-Qulaybi] Does the slow pace of the peace process caused by Israel's intransigence place the supporters of a peaceful settlement in an embarrassing position?

[Qaddumi] That only reflects confusion on the enemy front. For some time now Israel has been in a state of confusion and fragmentation while we have steadily proceeded toward our objective.

[Al-Qulaybi] It has been claimed that Fatah's fifth general congress held in Tunis set a time limit for a political settlement. Is that true?

[Qaddumi] The latest Fatah congress provided evidence of deep-rooted democratic foundations and insistence on the objectives defined by Fatah from the beginning, with the necessary flexibility in response to the international community in its endeavor to establish a just peace in fulfillment of the Palestinian people's aim of establishing a Palestinian state and of their right to self-determination and the exercise of national sovereignty on their soil.

[Al-Qulaybi] Do you believe that the prolongation of the political peaceful settlement process could drive the Palestinians to despair and perhaps to extremism?

[Qaddumi] The Arab-Israeli or Arab-Zionist conflict is a long one. It will take a long time and will span successive

generations. Through their continuous struggle the Palestinian people are making slow but steady progress with one achievement after another. The Israeli era is finished forever, and the Palestinian era is looming on the horizon.

[Al-Qulaybi] In one of your interviews with AL-MADINAH you said that the peace process will never make any progress unless new facts are created on the ground. What have you done so far?

[Qaddumi] The war of the masses is a long popular war. It is the intifadah. We have tried traditional wars since 1948. The popular war which our people have been waging for 23 months has made great gains: Europe has changed its position in our favor and it now feels that Israel is a burden to it. The intifadah has placed the United States in an embarrassing position as U.S. public opinion has begun to develop in favor of the Palestinian cause. National unity at home and abroad has been consolidated and we have been able to rid ourselves of all the blemishes of tutelage and containment. The Palestinian revolution has become a revolution inside [the occupied territory—fbis] while prior to that claims were made that Palestinian organizations were infiltrating the interior. The Palestinian people's struggle has begun to go past the red line. The fires in Karmel in the territories occupied in olden days are proof of that. By contrast, Israeli society is beginning to show cracks and to disintegrate because of differences. These differences will increase because, as I have already said, the Israeli era is over because the virus produced by the intifadah is now a cancer running through Israel's veins. Israeli writers, politicians, and military people are for the first time saying openly and publicly that negotiations must be held with the PLO if Israel is to maintain its existence and to survive. That is clear evidence of the great progress made by our people's intifadah. There has been an improvement in the position of the industrial states, as indicated in Japan's 25 July statement in Cairo, the EC Madrid statement, the Warsaw Pact Bucharest statement, and the statements of the Scandinavian, nonaligned, and African states.

London Paper Interviews 'Arafat Adviser

PM0811165189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Nov 89 p 18

[Interview with Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, by Salih al-'Azzaz in Riyadh; date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-'Azzaz] Zionism blatantly continues to exercise repression and violate international conventions and human rights through its dealing with the revolution of stones, while we stand and count the number of those martyred daily. Meanwhile, there are voices urging dialogue with the enemy. There are the declared 10 points, and there are scores of points which have not been declared. Is that not an unfair and obscure balance? What is the solution?

[Sha'th] There will be no solution without a clear step by the states and people of the Arab nation—that is, to give the utmost priority to our nation's central and prime cause, the Palestinian cause. Then all the balances will straighten out. The Palestinian people are a struggling people who are backed by an Arab nation surrounding them. It backs them to enable them to continue. And it exerts pressure—through its weight—on their enemies to achieve progress toward a true, just peace. Without that, the Arab nation would be sacrificing its independence and existence and making itself a prey for future Israeli attacks. I would like to say that Israel is testing long-range (1,500 km) missiles in the Mediterranean. It is also testing nuclear weapons with South Africa. These missiles and nuclear weapons are aimed not against the intifadah [uprising], but against the Arab nation as a whole. The intifadah's success and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state are capable of checking Israel. Whereas Israel's victory over the intifadah, God forbid, would mean a Zionist threat of expansion to the Arab nation as a whole. This is why I say that we cannot accept a situation in which the intifadah continues to offer thousands of martyrs without any genuine Arab aid or without true Arab priorities. Priority means sacrificing other political aims for the sake of liberating Palestine. It also means using economic capabilities in aiding the intifadah. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Azzaz] The intifadah has created a new and constructive language of dialogue which should be maintained with the enemy. But it seems that the PLO is taking refuge in dialogue as an alternative struggle arena. Do you believe we have exploited the factors provided by the intifadah?

[Sha'th] First, the intifadah is the origin of all the political steps which the PLO has embarked on since last November—namely, when the Palestine National Council [PNC] proclaimed the establishment of the state of Palestine. That was one year after the intifadah's launch. It was a translation of a true desire expressed by the stone-throwing children. It was also expressed by the revolutionary forces through the intifadah. In fact, most of the independence charter was written inside [the occupied territories] before it reached the PNC. The Palestinian dialogue with Jewish forces which backtracked from the Zionist line and expressed readiness to accept a Palestinian homeland actually started through the intifadah. So I say that the intifadah has taught us a great deal about ways of splitting the enemy's ranks to win over internal forces that believe in peace and want a solution leading to peace. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Azzaz] Have you ever participated in arranging an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue?

[Sha'th] The dialogue with the Israelis, which has been maintained since the PNC resolution, is a dialogue with Israelis who say before the dialogue starts: We are for an independent Palestinian state, we recognize the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative,

we are for Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories, and we are with the intifadah.

I and a number of the Palestinian brothers participated in that dialogue, which has contributed to forming a front hostile to the Israeli Government inside Israel. Without exaggeration I say that 25 percent of the Knesset members pursue that line.

But, of course, the question being raised now is that of dialogue with the Israeli Government—something which has still not been done by any Palestinian forces. Dialogue is now being maintained with supporters inside Israel—supporters who accept our line and talk with us on how to combine that line and the achievement of their security and safety in the event the Palestinian state is established. All they want is to ascertain that an independent Palestinian state and the application of the right to repatriation will take place within a framework that will not lead to—according to their fears—their being thrown into the sea. We tell them that the two objectives can be achieved together: Security for all and peace for all. This is if Palestinian rights are restored to their owners. That dialogue has produced a great deal of support for the intifadah through Israeli advocates of peace who go to the West Bank and form a barrier between the Israeli police and the Palestinian camps. Dressed in black, women stand in the streets on Fridays carrying banners saying: "Stop the dirty war"; "Hands Off the Palestinians"; "Withdraw from Palestinian territory." This is an important battle which we must continue. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Azzaz] Has a change occurred in U.S. policy, and is there any difference between Bush and Reagan?

[Sha'th] Bush took office after the intifadah was launched. So it difficult to say whether some of the positive statements made by Bush were the result of his positiveness or the result of the intifadah. Despite this, I will give him the benefit of the doubt when I assess his statements. Bush stated that he rejects Israel's occupation, wants Israel to withdraw from all the occupied Palestinian land, and supports Palestinian political rights, but without mentioning the right to self-determination. He also made other statements. Eventually it was his decision to initiate the dialogue, although it started a few days before he took office. But despite this, I do not see that he has translated these major statements into genuine political steps leading to the solution desired. So in that regard he is not much different from Reagan. In fact if we look at some of his statements, we will find them identical to Reagan's statement in his early days, especially with regard to the September 1982 initiative on which Reagan later backtracked.

PLO Representative Meets U.S. Officials in Tunis

LD0911144989 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1355 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Tunis 9, November 89, (TAP)—The representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Hakam Bal'awi, met with a number of officials from the U.S. Embassy in Tunis this afternoon.

According to the Palestine news agency, WAFA, the two sides reviewed during the meeting [words indistinct] especially the offical Palestinian position toward the peace process in the Middle East.

Hakram Bal'awi emphasized [words indistinct] interest of the PLO in giving impetus to the progress of the march of peace in a way that would achieve the aims of the Palestinian people.

PFLP Spokesman Condemns U.S. Security Council Veto

JN0811131089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Excerpts] For the third time this year, the United States last night used the veto to block a draft resolution in the Security Council condemning Israeli practices in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

In Damascus, the spokesman of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] commented on the U.S. veto saying: It is a flagrant expression of the clear U.S. bias toward Israel. It encourages the occupation authorities to continue the oppression policy they practice against the Palestinian people, according to the PFLP spokesman.

UN Representative Reacts to U.S. Veto

JN0811174089 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Brother Zuhdi al-Tarazi, PLO representative at the United Nations, has stated that the U.S. veto against the Security Council draft resolution condemning Israeli terrorist methods in the occupied territory encourages Israel to continue its repressive acts. The Palestinian official added that the U.S. position is ambiguous. At a time when they want to hold peace talks they allow Israel to continue its aggression against the Palestinian people. He added that this does not encourage peace in the region in any way.

Qaddumi Condemns U.S. Veto

JN0811183089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1750 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Tunis, 8 Nov (WAKH)—PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi has stated that by using the veto to block the international Security Council resolution to condemn Israel's oppressive policy in the occupied territory, the U.S. Administration proves once

again that it does not wish to deal with the Middle East crisis and does not care about the results of such practices.

In a statement to WAFA - PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY, Qaddumi stated today that the U.S. Administration believes that Israel is in a position of power from which it can end the intifadah. He said: This policy is contrary to the international policy of detente and is considered a test of U.S. credibility and its desire for peace. He added: Washington claims to be calling for peace while Secretary of State James Baker presents vague and conflicting ideas on the Middle East issue. He only wants to stall for time and freeze other constructive international efforts that could push the peace process far forward.

Yesterday, the United States used the veto to block a Security Council resolution condemning Israel's indiscriminate policy in the occupied territories, especially in Bayt Sahur, and demanding that the Israeli Government respect the Fourth Geneva Convention on protecting civilians in wartime.

'Arafat Receives USSR's Gerasimov; Conveys Message

JN0811175889 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, sent a message to the Soviet leadership yesterday on the situation in the region. This news was revealed yesterday when Brother Abu-'Ammar received Comrade Gerasimov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry official spokesman, in the presence of Brother Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee, and the Soviet ambassador in Tunis. During the meeting, the two sides discussed current developments in the Palestine question and the Middle East, the situation in the occupied territory, and the escalating Israeli repression against the sons of our Palestinian people.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Further on Meeting of SAARC Foreign Ministers

Bhutto Calls for 'Partnership'

BK0811163089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has called on South Asian countries to work out a partnership to meet their socioeconomic needs to realize the potential of the region as an economic power, besides meeting their security concerns. Inaugurating the seventh session of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] council of foreign ministers in Islamabad today, she emphasized that it should be a partnership of mutual trust and commonality of interests to carry them forward into the 21st century. [passage omitted] Ms Benazir Bhutto referred to the richness of the region in resources and skills and said the South Asian countries offer a vast internal market for goods and services.

The prime minister cited the example of countries based in the East and West shedding their confrontation and entering a new era of cooperation and seeking peaceful resolution of their long-standing conflicts. The SAARC countries should follow this example.

Ms Benazir Bhutto reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to peace in the world in general and South Asia in particular. She expressed Pakistan's readiness for negotiations to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region on a nondiscriminatory basis.

The prime minister recalled some important decisions taken at the fourth SAARC summit about a year ago in Islamabad. These included declaration of 1989 as the year of combating drug trafficking and drug abuse, launching the program SAARC-2000 to meet the basic needs of the people and inclusion of education as the new area of cooperation within SAARC. She said the current meeting of the Council of Ministers would enable them to review progress in implementing these decisions and provide basis for a new SAARC initiative at the next summit.

In his vote of thanks, the foreign minister of Nepal, Mr Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, proposed the adoption of Pakistan prime minister's address as a document of the meeting.

The SAARC Council of Ministers at its meeting in Islamabad today adopted a document enabling supreme court judges and members of parliament to travel within member countries without visa. The council also took decisions to streamline working and coordination among various committees of SAARC. During the working session, the foreign ministers expressed their views on making SAARC more effective. The council decided to observe the 8th of December this year as day against drug abuse.

Sri Lanka Unable To Host Summit

BK0911142089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1301 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 9 (AFP)—A meeting of foreign ministers from seven South Asian countries ended here Thursday [9 November] with no decision on a date or venue for the fifth summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Conference sources said that Sri Lanka, which had been the scheduled site for this year's summit of the regional organization, had indicated it would be unable to host the annual meeting of SAARC leaders later this year.

One source said Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne had told the meeting that Colombo would not consider hosting the summit "before the complete withdrawal" of Indian troops from the island nation.

The Indian troops, sent to Sri Lanka two years ago to end a Tamil separtatist conflict, are scheduled to quit the island by December 31.

A foreign minister said that Colombo had indicated that it would not be able to host a summit of the leaders from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka until March of next year.

The minister, who requested anonymity, said the foreign ministers did not have the power to change SAARC Rules and that the charter of the four-year-old group calls for SAARC leaders to meet every year in rotating capitals.

The issue has topped the 23-item agenda at the two-day conference which ended Thursday.

The ministers have now decided to refer the matter to Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, the current SAARC chairman, to decide through bilateral contacts with other leaders, the minister said.

Conference sources said it could mean either holding two summits next year, which would be "very crowded" for the SAARC heads of state, or skipping the 1989 summit.

In that case "we would be violating the traditions (of yearly gatherings) so soon," one delegate observed.

Ministers Meet Ishaq Khan, Bhutto

BK0811145389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said it is essential that all the member countries honor each other's sovereignty and resolve issues by legal and just means to realize the objectives of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC]. He was speaking to the foreign ministers of the SAARC countries, who called on him in Islamabad today. The president expressed happiness that the SAARC has made sufficient progress despite certain difficulties. The ministers expressed satisfaction at the progress made by the organization and endorsed the president's views that solid results should be achieved to strengthen the confidence of people on regional cooperation.

These ministers also called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The prime minister expressed the hope that during the current review of the pace of implementation of the SAARC summit in Islamabad, the foreign ministers will make new proposals to promote the possibility of cooperation among the member countries. She prayed for the success of the efforts of the SAARC foreign ministers to make the organization more effective.

Algeria

Iran's Velayati Begins 3-Day Visit to Algiers

Arrives; Welcomed by Ghazali

NC0711071989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Mr Velayati, our country's foreign minister, who left for Algiers at the head of a delegation yesterday evening, was welcomed at the airport by Mr Ghazali, his Algerian counterpart, and other officials of the country.

According to the Central News Unit, the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Algeria began their first round of talks last night.

Holds Talks With Ghazali

NC0711073089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Mr Velayati, our country's foreign minister, began the first round of his talks with the Algerian foreign minister as soon as he arrived in Algiers.

According to the Central News Unit, regional and international issues, especially those pertaining to Palestine, Lebanon, the Nonaligned Movement, and ways and means of making progress in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 are expected to be discussed during the visit by the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign minister to Algiers.

Holds 2d Round of Talks

LD0711180189 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—Expansion of bilateral political and economic relations was the topic of discussion at the second round of talks between Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Algerian counterpart Ahmed Ghazali in Algiers today.

Ghazali, hoping that the second Tehran-Algiers Economic Commission would soon meet in Tehran, said he was looking forward to visiting the Islamic Republic.

"We should rely solely on our own potentials to regain the rights of our peoples," said Velayati, making it clear that any expectation from the superpowers is useless, because these powers are only after their own so-called interests.

On the Palestine issue, Velayati who arrived in Algiers Monday [6 November] said the Islamic Republic has always supported Palestinians, and Iran considers liberation of this Islamic land as one of its strategic goals.

On U.N. Resolution 598, the Iranian foreign minister said, the current deadlock in its implementation has been created by the Iraqi regime, which refuses to carry out the first article, i.e. the withdrawal of troops to international borders.

Delivers Message to Bendjedid

LD0711203689 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] His excellency the president has received another message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The message was conveyed during a meeting between His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is paying an official visit to Algeria. The meeting was attended by our foreign minister and the ambassadors of the two countries.

With regard to the content of the talks and the scope of this visit, the Iranian foreign minister spoke to our colleague Rabah Zenati. The Iranian foreign minister said: I was received by President Chadli Bendjedid. I conveyed to him greetings from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. We talked about relations between Algeria and Iran. I informed His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid about the talks with my counterpart, Ahmed Ghazali, and of our decisions. The Algerian-Iranian joint committee will meet in the near future in Tehran. We are waiting for Ahmed Ghazali to pay a return visit.

Confers With Hamrouche

NC0811131889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Mr Velayati, our foreign minister currently on a visit to Algiers met Mr Mouloud Hamrouche, the country's prime minister, last night. According to the Central News Unit, in this meeting, bilateral relations, regional and international issues, and topics of mutual concern were discussed.

According to the report, our foreign minister, also met the mines minister and the commerce minister in separate meetings and reviewed cooperation between the two countries in detail, in particular in the fields of gas, oil, heavy industry, and commerce. During these sessions, views were exchanged on issues pertaining especially to the second Iranian-Algerian joint commission which is scheduled to be held in Tehran shortly. The two sides concurred that the second session of the joint commission should begin its work with maximum preparation.

Bendjedid Congratulates New Lebanese President

LD0611120189 Algiers APS in English 1006 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Algiers, 6/11/89 (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid was the first one yesterday to address a message of congratualtions to the new Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad. This message was the first international recognition of the Lebanese election following this long vacancy of power. In his message the head of state

declared: "I am convinced that the great confidence invested by deputies of the Lebanese people, who aspire to peace, security, stability and the exercise of its sovereignty on the totality of its national territory will be of a great assistance when you assume your heavy responsibility.

This confidence will also enable you to well achieve your noble mission paving the way for a new era marked by justice, concord and understanding, turning then the page of suffering, calamity and slaughter to engage in the way of happiness, sincerity and love so as Lebanon will recover its place within its Arab family and the international community.

As a conclusion the president ensured President Mu'awwad that Algeria will remain as in the past by the side of the brother Lebanon.

Ghazali Urges Implementation of Lebanese Accord

LD0411230789 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Interview with Algerian Foreign Minister Seyed Ahmed Ghazali by unidentified announcer—live in studio]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The time for convening the Lebanese legislature has passed without the session being held. This Saturday could have been decisive for the political future of Lebanon. However, Gen Michel 'Awn wanted war with the deputies. At dawn today he announced that he dissolved the parliament. The speaker flew to Paris to persuade the Christian deputies to join their colleagues in Qulay'at to elect a president of the Republic. Would Qulay'at insure the future of the Lebanese accord? Before we review the file of Lebanon we have the pleasure to host for the first time Foreign Minister Seyed Ahmed Ghazali, who has something to say regarding the Lebanese file and its development. We welcome you in our studios. [passage omitted]

Mr Minister, to begin our questions: I think you would agree with me that the situation in Lebanon is static, and being so it raises a lot of questions, particularly when Gen 'Awn insists on rejecting the al-Ta'if resolutions. What is the stand of the Arab tripartite committee—and Algeria is a member—of this situation?

[Ghazali] We have to recall the reasons which prompted the Arab committee to tackle this subject—the Lebanese crisis which has been grinding down the fraternal Lebanese people for 14 years. It is passing through a decisive stage—the stage of implementing on Lebanese soil, implementing the accord reached by Lebanese deputies on 23 October. [passage omitted]

The matter is as it appears on the surface and is said to be among Christians and Muslims, but the reality is that the problem of Lebanon—its depth and core—is reflected in the dismemberment of the people. This is partially due to a national pact surpassed by events and has led to the creation of a deep abyss between the Lebanese and imbalances in the social political and economic fields. And second, in relation to the first factor, is the presence of the Israeli forces in south Lebanon and the expansion course pursued by the Zionist entity; it has worked toward dissecting and dismembering the Arabs and exploiting this state to practice its expansionist policy. This is the core of the problem. Therefore, the supreme Arab committee saw that there was no alternative but to rejuvenate the Lebanese state. Now this stage is decisive because what remains now is implementing the historic agreement reached by the deputies.

The Lebanese people are at a crossroads.

[Announcer] And at this crossroads, how will the tripartite committee deal with the problem—the problem that Michel 'Awn insists on rejection?

[Ghazali] Well, there is the attitude of Michel 'Awn, and there is also the stance of the other sections of Lebanon. The overwhelming majority of the other parties are backing the national accord document and support the commencement of the legislature in endorsing the document. They also support carrying it out, beginning with the election of the president of the republic and the formation of a national accord government.

[Announcer] In your opinion then the obstructive stand of Michel 'Awn can be overlooked as long as the other Lebanese parties agree on the course of national reconciliation.

[Ghazali] We have dealt and discussed with all parties concerned through our work with the deputies, and while we do not doubt at all the patriotism of any official, including Michel 'Awn, nor his love for his homeland, we must draw attention to this crossroads. We either continue, or I should say the Lebanese people continue and prove the peace dynamism which is the basis of the tripartite committee or....

[Announcer] ...Well?

[Ghazali] Or we take the other path which leads to division and to the return of war. Therefore, it is possible to say that anything that obstructs the convening of the legislature, the carrying out of constitutional reforms, and the election of the president would only constitute an unforgivable detriment to the interest of the Lebanese people.

[Announcer] You had a telephone conversation yesterday with Mr George Sa'adah. From your conversation, how would you summarize the Christian attitude?

[Ghazali] The Christian stand—all of the Christian factions including the Phalangists, the Lebanese Forces, and the Liberal Party—all the Christian factions have supported and adopted the accord, and they are determined to begin implementing the document. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Attends NDP Parliamentary Session

Denies Cabinet Reshuffle

NC0711223689 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this evening attended a meeting of the National Democratic Party's [NDP] parliamentary committee on the occasion of the opening of the People's Assembly's new parliamentary session. [passage omitted] Senior government officials and NDP People's Assembly members also attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

Commenting after the 3-hour meeting, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the president discussed the priorities for future work in the domestic field. [passage omitted]

The president asked the People's Assembly members not to believe rumors that circulate every now and then and asserted that this stage requires stability. He said rumors about plans to dissolve the People's Assembly are false, noting that all efforts are focused on resolving Egypt's problems. The president pointed out that stability gives Egypt strength and high standing in the regional and international arenas.

He asserted that current rumors about a cabinet reshuffle are completely untrue. [passage omitted)

Discusses Foreign Policy

NC0811092589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2202 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has disclosed that at the outset of the parliamentary committee meeting President Husni Mubarak praised the role of the People's Assembly during its previous session and noted that the Assembly's discussions had been at the level of responsibility. Mubarak also hoped that the new session will perform a distinguished task and will cooperation fully. [passage omitted]

Al-Sharif said that Mubarak then answered a number of questions about the foreign policy. Mubarak noted that Egypt's foreign policy is based on understanding, frankness, and mutual respect, and that it aims to support Arab nation's causes and to enhance Egypt's efforts abroad.

Mubarak noted the good and balanced links between Egypt and all world countries, including the two superpowers and Asian, African, and European countries.

He said that Egypt is exerting efforts together with its Arab brothers to resolve Arab causes. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question on the outcome of the president's meeting with the Libyan leader, the information minister said that President Mubarak reviewed the results of his meetings with Al-Qadhdhafi in Matruh and Tobruk, noting that the talks had been positive and marked by frankness, truth, logic, reality, and mutual keenness on cooperation between the two countries in various aspects, foremost of which are housing, transport, communications, industry, agriculture, electricity, and media.

On the Egyptian-Sudanese relations, the president asserted that these ties are eternal and unique. He said that there is continuous consultation between Egypt and Sudan and that Egypt is exerting every effort and holding contacts with a number of friendly countries to contain and solve the problem of Southern sudan.

Commenting on the situation in Lebanon, the president noted during the meeting the efforts of the tripartite committee, represented by the efforts of King Fahd ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, in the al-Ta'if meetings to implement the Casablanca summit resolutions. He said Egypt has supported the election of a new Lebanese president. [passage omitted]

On the Palestinian issue, the president explained the current developments in this issue and Egypt's role in activating it. He also reviewed Egypt's 10-point plan as well as U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan. He noted that Egypt's moves and initiatives are being conducted in constant coordination and consultation with the PLO.

The president asserted that the Palestinian popular intifadah in the occupied territories is an expression of the oppression and suppression of the Palestinian people. He remarked that no force can (?stop) the people's uprising except a just solution of their cause. [passage ommited]

The president gave several directives at the meeting in his capacity as head of the National Democratic Party regarding the party's moves and activities in the coming stage. [passage ommited]

DPRK People's Army Chief of Staff Visits

Meets With Mubarak

NC0711132389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1128 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received General Choe Kwang, chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, at his office in Heliopolis this morning. Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, who attended the meeting, said that the Korean chief of staff's visit to Egypt reflects the strong relations between the two countries. The meeting was also attended by (Kim Yong-sip), North Korean ambassador in Cairo.

It is to be noted that the visit of the Korean chief of staff to Egypt comes in response to an invitation by Lt Gen Abu-Shinaf in reply to the latter's visit to Korea in March.

Talks With Egyptian Counterpart

NC0711150989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1259 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, today received Choe Kwang, chief of staff of the DPRK People's Army; (Kim Kwang), deputy defense minister; and the delegation accompanying them. They discussed ways to strengthen military cooperation between the two countries.

After the talks, Choe Kwang placed a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier in the Nasr city. He was accompanied by Major General Muhammad Ahmad Dusuqi Ghayati, commander of the Central Military Zone. The session was preceded by an official reception ceremony of the Korean officials at the Defense Ministry headquarters in Nasr city.

Mubarak Congratulates New Lebanese President

NC0611140589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Nov 89

["Text" of cable from President Husni Mubarak to Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad on his election—read by announcer]

[Text] His Excellency President Rene Mu'awwad, president of the fraternal Republic of Lebanon: It pleases me on your election as president of the Republic of Lebanon at this decisive moment in your fraternal people's history and during their march toward peace and stability to express to you my sincerest congratulations and those of the Egyptian people at this blessed step along the path of Lebanese national accord and the restoration of Lebanon's unity and creative role within the Arab family.

The peace process in Lebanon will doubtless be completed on a day we are confident is not far away by establishing total sovereignty on all its national soil and with the liberation of its will from every foreign intervention. These are principles in which we believe and which we seek to attain. We are confident that your leadership and wisdom will firmly lead Lebanon toward these objectives. The way is still thorny, long, and full of the need for sacrifices. Nevertheless, the constitutional legitimacy which you represent and the wisdom of the Lebanese people around whom the Arab will, which blesses this wisdom, rallies, are all factors that will certainly contribute to restoring peace in Lebanon. These factors will also enable it to resume its pan-Arab role alongside its brothers in the Arab east and Arab Maghreb in their progress toward a better future, dignity, and prosperity. [signed] Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Fatah Official on PLO Role, Israeli Maneuvers

NC0711152389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1418 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah has emphasized that the PLO clings to its right to Palestinian representation in any talks with Israel. He said that this is the Palestinian people's will inside and outside the occupied territories. They have constantly expressed their view "that the the PLO is the sole party that has the right to form a delegation."

In a statement to MENA, al-Qidrah said that Israel's approval of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's points is merely a propaganda maneuver. The conditions Israel requested from the United States nullify the content of the points and abort any efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East. He added: By approving the plan, Israel seeks to deceive world public opinion, claiming that it is working for peace while its actions reveal that it is working against it. He noted that the world knows full well that the Palestinian approach to peace is an unequivocal and firm stand and not a tactic.

PLO Executive Committee To Meet in Tunis 9 Nov

NC0811151189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1259 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—Following his meeting this morning with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah al-Hurani said that the meeting was part of the constant consultations and coordination between Egypt and the PLO. He said that the meeting discussed current initiatives and ways of confronting the current situation in the wake of new developments and the Israeli response to Baker's overture. He pointed out that he will convey the results of today's discussion to the Palestinian leadership.

He noted that the Palestinian leaders and the PLO executive committee will meet in Tunis tomorrow to adopt a final decision in light of the consultations with Egypt. He said that the final decision will be conveyed to Egypt as soon as it is made.

Answering a question about the Egyptian stand, al-Hurani said that Egypt in no way pressures the Palestinians. Egypt, he said, declared through President Mubarak that the PLO makes its own decisions. He said that the PLO will inform Egypt of its decision as a fraternal party.

'Abd-al-Majid Comments on Talks With Palestinians

NC0811152989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1423 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has described the Egyptian-Palestinian talks held at the

Foreign Ministry today as important and useful. He said that the meeting provided an opportunity for Egypt and the Palestinians to consult in prepration for the PLO executive committee meeting in Tunis tomorrow which will adopt a final decision on the current peace efforts.

UK Minister Waldegrave Visits, Meets Mubarak

Comments on Baker Plan

NC0711123789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met this morning at his office in Heliopolis with William Waldegrave, UK minister of state in the Foreign Office. Present at the meeting were the first under secretary at the Foreign Office for the Middle East Affairs; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the president's Office for Political Affairs; and William Adams, the United Kingdom's ambassador to Cairo.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Waldegrave said it had been an extremely positive and cordial session during which there was an exchange of views on the Egyptian diplomatic initiatives under discussion. He said these initiatives had revived hope in the possibility of making progress regarding the establishment of an Arab-Israeli dialogue. Waldegrave added that the UK Government believes that Egyptian diplomacy has a vital role to play in emphasizing this hope and making progress.

He said that future steps in connection with the Palestinian issue and the situation in Sudan were also discussed during the meeting. He added: As usual, our views were in agreement to a great extent.

Regarding the situation in Sudan, Waldegrave expressed his country's hope that the cease-fire will be restored and dialogue among the disputing parties will be reinitiated. He added that he will visit Nairobi for talks with Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi on these issues. He hoped the Kenyan president will use his influence in Africa to convey messages to Garang and persuade him that there is no alternative to dialogue, or else the Sudanese people will face further disasters.

Regarding U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan and the possibility of holding a Palestinian-Israeli meeting, Waldegrave said: I believe prospects for such a meeting are better now than at any time before and, therefore, it is our duty to urge the two parties to concentrate on the points of agreement and avoid the points of disagreement. We know easily and clearly what the points of disagreement are, and I believe that it is possible to set a framework of action for a dialogue that could be of much help in this regard.

Asked about Egypt's position on Baker's amended plan, Dr al-Baz said: We believe that the points proposed by Baker deserve careful study. However, they are being viewed positively by the parties concerned, regardless of the reservations that they may harbor or the clarifications that could be needed to start a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, which will undoubtedly signal positive progress in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Al-Baz went on to say that we must not waste any more opportunities for progress, whether the Baker plan is correct or not.

Asked if some improvement needs to be made to Baker's plan, Al-Baz pointed out that there are some legitimate questions that could be raised. He added: We believe that in the end these efforts will be crystalized in order to make the desired progress for both parties.

Continuing his statement, Al-Baz noted that neither Egypt nor any other Arab country has the right to speak on behalf of the Palestinians. He added: This is true because the Palestinians have their own representatives who were elected by a vast majority, and these elected representatives are in control of the Palestinian political position and therefore are the ones who must speak in the name of the Palestinians.

Al-Baz emphsized that Egypt is not a substitute for the Palestinians, and it has never claimed to be so at any time. The same is true of Jordan and of the other Arab countries, which have never made such a claim. For this reason, he added, we believe that the Palestinians must have the final say, and this is the philosophy behind our moves. We must contribute to bringing both the Palestinians and the Israelis to the negotiating table so that they can exchange views with the hope of reaching an agreement, because the absence of a true and real acceptance as well as the two parties' approval will make us lose hope in resolving the Palestinian issue.

Holds News Conference

NC0711212489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] William Waldegrave, UK minister of state in the Foreign Office, held a news conference this evening at the conclusion of his visit to Egypt. He said that Egypt, under the leadership of President Mubarak, is exerting great efforts to advance the peace process. He said that he heard Egypt's views on Middle East developments. The United Kingdom, he said, wants the Palestinians and the Israelis to agree on the Baker plan so that a framework for starting negotiations can be found. He noted that the United Kingdom supports such a framework to safeguard the Palestinians' rights and stressed that his country adheres to the EC statement released in Madrid.

Waldegrave said that it is impossible for members of any Palestinian delegation to the talks to enjoy credibility if they do not have the PLO's support. He pointed out that emphasis should be placed on the importance of starting a dialogue, rather than on the topics to be discussed at a dialogue.

Waldegrave noted that he also discussed the situation in Sudan, which he termed serious and said has the potential to become extremely harmful, and the international situation. He said that the United Kingdom advocates a cease-fire in southern Sudan and urges both parties to enter into peace talks in a spirit of flexibility and good will. He pointed out that both the Sudanese Government and the Garang group must take this approach.

Waldegrave said that Egypt's and the United Kingdom's stands on the Lebanese situation are identical. Both countries stress the importance of supporting the elected Lebanese president and the need for the withdrawal of foreign forces and Lebanon's national unity.

Leaves for Nairobi

NC0811090989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—William Waldegrave, UK minister of state in the Foreign Office, left Cairo early this morning for Nairobi after a visit to Egypt and a meeting with President Husni Mubarak.

During his 3-day visit, the UK minister of state met with Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development; Interior Minister Zaki Badr; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the president's office for political affairs, and held talks on the Egyptian-UK relations.

Sudanese Interior Minister Arrives 7 Nov

Brings Message From RCC Leader

NC0711123989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1103 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Staff Brigadier General Faysal Abu-Salih, Sudanese interior minister and Revolution Council Command [RCC] member, arrived here this morning with a delegation comprising members of the conference for national dialogue. Interior Minister Zaki Badr met him at at the airport.

The Sudanese minister said he is carrying a written message from RCC leader Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir to President Mubarak on the RCC's views toward the recent events, the peace issue, and stability in Sudan. [passage omitted]

Meets Mubarak, Comments

NC0811152389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak this morning received Staff Brigadier General Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, Sudanese interior minister and member of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, and a 19-member delegation representing all the fronts that participated in the dialogue for a national peace conference in Sudan.

Following the meeting, the Sudanese minister described Sudan's relations with Egypt as fraternal.

He pointed out that he had a clear and candid discussion with President Mubarak whom he briefed on the outcome of the dialogue conference and the Sudanese Government's views. He said that the Sudanese agreement endorsed the outcome as a framework for an agreement to establish peace in Sudan. He said that President Mubarak is well informed about the outcome of the dialogue and showed understanding of all Sudanese developoments.

Interior Minister Comments on Drugs, Terrorism

NC0711220689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 7 Nov (MENA)—In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, Interior Minister Zaki Badr said the drug issue has become a threat to the entire world. He added: We have evidence that there are international rings specializing in transporting drugs to Arab cities, such as the Egyptian city of Aswan, which are used as distribution centers and for onward shipment to Europe.

He called for public execution of drug traffickers and producers. He noted: Other countries, such as China, have done this. He disclosed that there is continuous security cooperation in combating drug trafficking between Egypt and other Arab countries.

He pointed out that the emergency law in Egypt had a profound effect on curbing the expansion of this phenomenon. He affirmed that Egypt is focusing on drug traffickers and that Egyptian police authorities will take all legal measures to eliminate them.

The interior minister explained that the most important and serious crime in the Arab homeland now is terrorism and extremism and that religious extremism has become a problem that must be confronted by more than one party.

He noted that dealing with extremism requires an all-out effort by all security authorities in Arab countries. He disclosed that there are foreign forces that support and finance the extremist groups to export terrorism to the region.

He said that these forces are known to all and that concerted efforts by Arab security authorities are needed to check them, because the extremists' only goal is to seize power and they use violence and terrorism to impose themselves and their will on society.

The interior minister stressed the importance of security coordination between Egypt and other member countries of the Arab Cooperation Council. He said: We are trying to outline a unified security strategy to curb the illegal practices of those who commit crimes and acts of terrorism.

Commenting on recent arrests of members of religious extremist organizations in Egypt, he said: I support a prudent Islamic current, and in Egypt we have dozens of religious societies which have been established under totally free conditions and receive financial and moral support from the state because Egypt is an Islamic country, as stipulated by its Constitution and confirmed by history.

He added: I take a firm stand against those elements who use religion as a cover and adopt methods that contravene religious principles in pursuit of their politial aims. When we confront the extremists, we do so primarily to defend Islam so that it will not be distorted or defamed.

He affirmed that the Egyptian political security apparatus is efficient and active and that it gathers unequivocal evidence by legal and legitimate means about all organizations attempting to harm the state's security.

He disclosed that he has issued orders to apply the emergency law to anyone trying to foment sedition or to strike at the unity of society, no matter whether he wears religious robes or voices certain ideological slogans. He asserted that Egyptian security authorities have succeeded in curbing the illegal organizations, obstructing their movements, and eliminating the individuals who appeared at their head and attempted to use Egypt's democratic atmosphere to serve their illegal political aims.

Morocco

Fighting With Polisario Front Confirmed

LD0811203189 Paris International Service in French 1952 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Morocco has confirmed that its army has been involved in clashes with the Polisario Front today. The battle is reported to have taken place in the northeast of the Western Sahara, in the region of Amgala. According to Rabat the fighting resulted in more than 130 deaths, 45 of them Moroccan and 87 among the assailants.

Communique on Fighting

LD0811213389 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] The Ministry of Information has issued the following communique:

The Polisario mercenaries launched an attack against the Amgala sector early this morning, 8 November. Fierce fighting continued for more than 3 hours. The outcome of this battle was as follows: 45 were martyred and 56 were injured in the ranks of the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces. The Polisario gang suffered huge losses with 87 men killed and a large number injured and imprisoned. The Polisario gang also lost great quantities of ammunition.

Al-Humaydi Visits, Carries Al-Qadhdhafi Message

Arrives, Issues Statement

LD0511000789 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the historic leadership of the 1 September revolution in Libya, arrived this afternoon in Morocco. Concerning his mission in our country, the Libyan official said on his arrival at Rabat-Sale airport:

[Begin al-Humaydi recording] I am pleased to be in fraternal Morocco today carrying a message from the brother leader of the Libyan revolution to his brother His Majesty King Hassan II. During my stay in fraternal Morocco, I will have the opportunity to have dialogue and discussions to examine a number of issues particularly the distinguished bilateral excellent relations and also matters concerning the Arab Maghrab and questions of mutual interest. Thank you. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Concludes Meetings, Departs

LD0711134489 Rabat MAP in English 1213 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 7 (MAP)—Commandant al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command and emissary of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi left Morocco Monday evening at the end of a three-day working visit during which he had been received by King Hassan II.

The Libyan official who had arrived in Morocco Saturday with a message from President al-Qadhdhafi to King Hassan II had a meeting here Sunday with Minister of the Interior and Information Driss Basri.

Sudan

Arabic, Ethiopian Role in Fighting Charged

EA0811120789 Khartoum SUNA in French 0940 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Nov (SUNA)—In an interview with the Qatar daily AL-RAYAH, the Sudanese foreign minister, Mr Ali Sahlul [words indistinct] Israel was involved in the offensive against the town of Kurmuk in southeastern Sudan. Mr Sahlul charged that Israeli soldiers had been seen during the attack.

He indicated that certain foreign quarters were deliberately tarnishing Sudan's image by publishing totally baseless information.

The foreign minister also said that Red Cross operations in southern Sudan would be re-evaluated since relief which is shipped to southern Sudan without passing through the north threatens the security of the country.

Mr Sahlul added that the Ethiopian ambassador had left Sudan on the day of the offensive against the town of Kurmuk, without informing the authorities concerned. He said that Sudan had not withdrawn its ambassador from Ethiopia. The ambassador's return from Addis Ababa could be attributed to the end of his mission in Ethiopia. Sudan would shortly submit the name of a new ambassador to Addis Ababa, he said.

Army Issues Statement on Umm Doga Battle

EA0911090089 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Here now is a statement from the People's Armed Forces General Commando: [passage omitted on quotation from the Koran]

We have repeatedly stressed to the Sudanese people that we are striving for peace, so as to restore security and confidence throughout our country. That is why your revolution convened the national dialogue conference, so we could arrive at a just peace.

However, at a time when peace delegations are touring African, Arab and friendly states to explain the peace program adopted by a splendid consensus on the part of all the sons of the nation, and approved by the National Salvation Revolution, most regrettably the proponents of rebellion both at home and abroad are planning to hold a similar dialogue. [sentence as heard]

Recently they turned on Kurmuk, and now they are daily turning on peaceful people in places in Equatoria, Upper Nile and Bahr al-Ghazal.

The day before yesterday, 6 November, they turned on the brave town of Umm Doga [Blue Nile Region, on border with Ethiopia] and our heroes inflicted on them heavy losses in life and material, so that they left behind hundreds of dead and wounded, while four of our [word indistinct] heroes fell as martyrs for this great homeland.

From this pulpit we inform our dear citizens that we shall not remain silent in the face of such criminal acts of aggression, which are aimed at destroying the peace efforts and the resolutions of the national dialogue conference.

Our heroes everywhere will strike with all force and determination the enemies of the homeland, and the traitors and renegades. The peace efforts will continue regardless of the tricks of the tricksters and the conspiracies of the aggressors. Everlasting glory for our heroic martyrs, and downfall and disgrace to the enemies of unity and stability. [passage omitted on quotation from Koran]

London Paper Interviews Opposition Spokesman

PM0811163189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Nov 89 p 4

[Interview with Mansur Khalid, "official spokesman of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement," by Huda al-Husayni; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Husayni] You demand negotiations without preconditions from the government, while you continue to set conditions like abolishing the state of emergency and lifting the curfew on the capital. Why?

[Khalid] It was the government that requested negotiations with the movement without preconditions. We (the movement) have never made any statement on or reference to any conditions.

[Al-Husayni] But you set preconditions regarding the state of emergency, and now say that you accept negotiations without conditions, that your program is clear, that you want a transitional government and the rebuilding of the Army, and so on....

[Khalid] The issues are confused. First, talking about preconditions means imposing certain things which the other side must implement before we can agree to sit down with it and hold talks. But that is not an option and has not happened at all on our part, neither with this government nor previous governments. But there are basic issues which the two sides discuss when they meet. There are issues which the movement sees as basic issues not subject to any preconditions, because the movement considers them fundamental issues. So they must be agreed upon before moving to the essence of the subject. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] You accuse the new leaders in Sudan of representing the [National] Islamic Front's [NIF] military wing. But they put NIF leaders in prison. How do you interpret that?

[Khalid] There can be more than one interpretation. The first is that the Islamic movement is not just Hasan al-Turabi and Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman. The second—and this is the likely one—is that NIF leader Hasan al-Turabi is not putschist by nature and build. This is why I spoke about the Front's military wing.

[Al-Husayni] The government called for a national peace dialogue conference. Why did you not participate in it?

[Khalid] Let me put the question in a different form: What would have happened if John Garang had called for a national conference to discuss Sudan's future inside Sudan, in Torit for instance, or in any of the towns controlled by the movement? What would have happened had he invited the elements representing all inclinations? Would it have been said it was a national conference and therefore its resolutions must be accepted on the basis that they reflected the Sudanese public's viewpoint?

[Al-Husayni] Why make it difficult? Besides, John Garang is not in power.

[Khalid] That is the point, namely that being a northerner does not alone enable someone to seize power and then become the authority. I would like to point out here that control of Khartoum does not mean control of Sudan as a whole. When Ja'far Numayri launched his coup all the Sudanese people supported him. That is, all professional and agricultural unions announced their absolute support for him. Some parties also supported him. So he started with a popular base. The new regime has not started with such a base. Nevertheless, it started with a dialogue with the movement. It met with the movement and the dialogue lasted 9 hours. Then a joint statement was issued to the effect that there were points of disagreement between the two sides and that the government must answer particular queries if it wanted that dialogue to continue.

To be honest, the government should have replied to those queries, even if it took more than a month. But it did not. In fact it responded with a step designed to portray the movement as intransigent and not wanting dialogue, irrespective of the dialogue which was held. So we treated that conference on the same basis, that is all. If the purpose of the conference is the government's desire to formulate a view of the queries raised by the movement, that is up to it, but it should not ask the movement to participate in the conference.

[Al-Husayni] Why did you not participate at least to expose their intentions?

[Khalid] We have exposed their intentions right from the start. And if we had participated in the conference, we would have given it a credibility and would have disappointed the political forces allied with us. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] When federalism was mentioned your movement rejected it because it divides Sudan! Then the movement said that it was interested in such ideas, because it wants a united Sudan. It seems that the movement does not understand the federalism issue.

[Khalid] I do not know where that statement came from.

[Al-Husayni] From your radio.

[Khalid] Who can say that federalism is against Sudan's unity? That is incorrect. This is because Dr John Garang spoke about federalism on several occasions, and it exists in the Koka Dam proposals, since it was stipulated that the most important issues must be discussed, and these include the method of rule. That is, a kind of noncentralism must be established and federalism is one aspect of decentralization. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Does the movement receive any Israeli aid?

[Khalid] Actually there is nothing strategic or political which would prompt the movement to turn to Israel. First, the movement maintains a position on certain issues. Regarding the Palestinian issue, the movement's view of supporting the PLO is known, and we have strong relations with Palestinian officials and meet with them often. They know where the movement stands.

Furthermore, the states with which we have strong relations maintain a position toward Israel and support the PLO.

Besides, we do not need Israel. It cannot offer us anything. Militarily, we do not need its help. The movement has sufficient aid and I do not have to mention the sources. Our principal aid came from Libya and it was a very large amount. Unlike all the other movements which opposed Numayri, the movement refused to deal with Libya in money. We said that every penny we need must be spent on weapons only. [passage omitted]

UK's Waldegrave Urges Immediate Cease-Fire

EA0811112089 Khartoum SUNA in English 0910 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Nov (SUNA)—Government official spokesman 'Ali Muhammad Shummu has expressed surprise over a British official's comments (placing the rebel and the government on equal footing), with regard to ceasefire violation in the country.

Culture and information minister, commenting on statements by Mr. Waldegrave, British state minister for foreign affairs, said it was the rebels who violated the cease [as received] in the south, and that the government has been exerting every possible effort for achieving peace and stability in the country.

Shummu said Sudan appreciates the humanitarian assistance to Sudan, adding that this assistance would help Sudan in its exerted efforts for peace realisation.

Mr. 'Ali Shummu has thanked the British Government for its concern over development in the Sudan, and its keenness for peace realisation in the country.

Shummu has meanwhile expressed hope that Britain would double its efforts aiming to convince the rebel movement to resort to serious peace negotiations.

He said foreign diplomats in the country know the seriousness of the government with regard to peace.

Foreign Minister Undersecretary Ibrahim Muhammad 'Ali earlier yesterday met the British ambassador to Sudan, who acquainted him on a statement made by the British Foreign Ministry official on Sudan.

In his statement, Mr. Waldegrave said continuation of the conflict in the south Sudan was bringing appalling suffering to the population, and causing serious damage to the country's reputation and international standing.

The British official has called on "both sides" to return immediately to the ceasefire, and engage in negotiations in a spirit of flexibility and goodwill.

Western Sahara

Polisario Front Launches Large-Scale Attack

LD0811202989 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Polisario Front combatants today launched a large-scale attack against Moroccan forces in the Amgala sector in the north of the Western Sahara. The attack left a number of dead and numerous injured in the royal ranks. This was stated in a Saharan communique issued this evening in Algiers.

Along a 25-km stretch of the Moroccan defensive wall during this large-scale attack, the Saharan communique stressed that a large number of Moroccan soldiers were captured, and a significant quantity of arms was seized. A detailed communique accompanied with figures on this operation will be published later, according to today's communique. Saharan sources said that this attack is a response to the speech of the Moroccan king on the 14th anniversary of the Moroccan invasion of the north of the Saharan republic.

Saddam Chairs Cabinet Meeting; Topics Cited

JN0811212889 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn this evening chaired a 3-hour meeting of the Council of Ministers.

The discussions centered on topics listed on the agenda. The proper decisions were made and the required measures taken to deal with these issues. Among the topics discussed were the lifting of restrictions on the sale of machinery and equipment owned by foreign firms carrying out projects in Iraq, the regulations on travel outside Iraq at the travelers' expense to seek treatment or to study, and the reconsideration of the activities previously deemed impermissible by the Ministry of Oil if carried out by oil installations.

Saddam Envoy Conveys Message to Moroccan Monarch

JN0811213389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] An envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn today conveyed a message from his excellency the president to his brother King Hassan II of Morocco.

The message was conveyed in a reception His Majesty King Hassan hosted for Dr Fadil al-Barrak, President Saddam Husayn's envoy, who arrived in the Moroccan capital yesterday.

The president's envoy conveyed to the Moroccan monarch the greetings of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and his best wishes of continued progress and prosperity to the fraternal Moroccan people and fraternal Morocco.

The meeting was attended by the Iraqi ambassador in Rabat and a number of Moroccan officials.

Eliasson, 'Aziz Continue Talks About Iran

Meet for 3d Round of Talks

JN0711212889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1624 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met for a third round of talks this evening with Mr Jan Eliasson, personal representative of the UN secretary general.

The session concentrated on continuing the talks that began in the last two sessions on the issue of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 598 to establish peace between Iraq and Iran and the whole region.

The round of talks was attended by the Foreign Ministry undersecretary, Iraq's permament representative to the United Nations, heads of the International Organizations and Legal Departments at the Foreign Ministry, and Mr Eliasson's delegation.

Mr Eliasson arrived here the day before yesterday as part of his shuttle tour between Baghdad and Tehran.

Eliasson Leaves for Tehran

JN0811190489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Nov (INA)—Jan Eliasson, personal representative of the UN secretary general, and his delegation left Baghdad for Tehran this evening following a 3-day visit to Iraq.

Earlier today, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held a fourth round of talks with Eliasson during which they completed the talks conducted during the previous three rounds on ways to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 to achieve peace between Iraq and Iran and in the entire region.

Eliasson was seen off at the airport by a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Eliasson began his shuttle trips between Iraq and Iran when he arrived in Baghdad on 31 October where he held three rounds of talks with Iraqi officials. Eliasson left for Tehran on 3 November and returned to Baghdad on 5 November.

Paper Views UN Role in Peace Talks With Iran

JN0811162289 Baghdad INA in English 1520 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 8, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily has said that Iran's procrastination and selectivity in dealing with U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 are to cover its crises and power struggle.

Carrying an article here today, the paper pointed out that Iran also adopted this approach to justify its oppressive acts perpetrated against the opposition. Similarly, Iran used the no-war-no-peace state to black out over the deteriorating situation inside Iran in terms of economic, political and social crisis, some of which were attributed to the war and some to Iran's policies.

AL-THAWRAH underlined that the Iranian regime was still ignoring facts being crucial in the conflict and constituting serious gaps in its scheme. These facts show that Iraq has perpetuated results of its victory and has given them a social and historical depth inaccessible to the Iranian practices, it said.

The daily concluded by saying that the United Nations' role in this stage required the necessity to exceed all reconciliatory bids that led to nothing in the past months owing to the Iranian stances.

It urged the international agency to exert efforts to push ahead the process of peace and block Iran from keeping on conducting its procrastinating policy.

Pakistani Minister of Petroleum Continues Visit

Meets With Hammadi

JN0811213089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolutior Command Council member and deputy prime minister, today received Jehangir Badar, Pakistani minister of petroleum and natural resources.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Pakistani ambassador in Baghdad, they reviewed bilateral ties and ways to develop them.

Talks With Iraqi Counterpart

JN0911112189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Nov (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim this morning met with Jehangir Badar, Pakistani minister of petroleum and natural resources, who is currently visiting Iraq.

They discussed aspects of technical and oil cooperation between the two countries and ways of promoting them.

Assembly Speaker Receives UK Ambassador

JN0811181089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Nov (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today met with J. Clark, UK ambassador to Baghdad.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral parliamentary ties. Sa'di Mahdi Salih received an invitation extended by the UK Parliament to the Iraqi National Assembly, asking the latter to send a delegation on a visit to the United Kingdom. A UK parliamentary delegation recently visited Iraq at an official invitation extended by the National Assembly.

Foreign Officials Here for Baghdad Trade Fair

Spanish, UK Represented

JN0811163089 Baghdad INA in English 1250 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 8, INA—Secretary General of Spanish Trade Ministry Mr Comas Aphels [name as received] and Executive Chairman of British Overseas Trade Council Mr David Dayle [name as received] left here today after attending the 26th Baghdad International Fair.

The two officials expressed their satisfaction over the great development of the Iraqi industries during the last few years.

Mr Dayle discussed with Iraqi officials topics listed on the agenda of the meetings of the Joint British-Iraqi Economic Committee due to be held in London this month.

French Trade Minister Attends

JN0811213789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2035 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Nov (INA)—Jean-Marie Rausch, French minister of foreign trade, and his delegation arrived in Baghdad this evening to attend the 26th Baghdad International Fair. In a statement to INA, the French minister affirmed his country's concern in participating in the fair to show the depth of the strong relations between the two countries, particularly economic relations. The French minister was received at the airport by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and the French ambassador in Baghdad.

SFRY Minister Visits

JN0911114589 Baghdad INA in English 1120 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 9, INA—Yugoslav Minister of Labour, Public Health, War Veterans and Social Security [title as received] Mr Radisa Gacic arrived here this morning with his accompanying delegation.

During his stay, Mr Gacic will attend in the 26th Baghdad International Fair.

'Major' Currency Smuggling Network Uncovered

JN0611123689 Baghdad INA in English 1205 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 6, INA—Iraq's competent security authorities arrested a major network for smuggling the national currency (Iraqi dinar) abroad.

This network is assigned with operations of organized and accurate [as received] smuggling, benefiting from the foreign drivers who were transferring commodities and materials to and from Iraq.

Director of the Economic Security told AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad that the amount which was captured before smuggling was estimated at more than two and quarter million Iraqi dinars.

He added that most smugglers of the national capitals were businessmen working in the private sector.

Arens Told U.S. Unable To Provide 'Assurances'

TA0911102089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Nov 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by Menahem Shalev and Washington-based correspondent Wolf Blitzer]

[Excerpt] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has informed Israel that the Bush administration will be unable to give the assurances on the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue formulated by the inner cabinet on Sunday, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned.

Baker told Foreign Minister Moshe Arens that the administration "has comments to make" on the assurances as phrased by the cabinet, sources in Jerusalem said last night. They added that Baker had not given any details and that the extent of American reservations about the requested assurances remained unclear.

The apparent U.S. intention to negotiate the language of the assurances runs contrary to the position of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, as expressed by his spokesmen and Likud ministers this week.

Shamir's bureau chief, Yossi Ahime'ir, said last night that Shamir's explicit position is that the six assurances "are one whole package." He added that amendments to the assurances are liable to reopen the entire "Via Dolorosa" of the decision-making process.

But Ahime'ir added that in meetings in Washington—which last night had still to be scheduled—the prime minister would hear what the American side had to say before expressing his own positions. [passage omitted]

Solution to 'Differences' With U.S. Possible

TA0911060889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the next step in the peace process should be Egyptian acceptance of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point plan and not written assurances from Washington that Israel would not have to talk to the PLO. Rabin told reporters in Toronto that Israel cannot force the United States to give assurances against its will, but he believes that a solution can be found to differences between the two countries. The defense minister is on a private visit to Canada.

Agreement With U.S. 'Essential' Before Talks

TA0811112789 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Nov 89 p A14

[Commentary by Shmu'el Segev: "An Understanding With the United States Before Talks"]

[Excerpts] There is much soundness in the constraints ministers' contention, which was voiced this week in several closed forums, that the Labor Party's territorial arrangement plan is preferable to the "Baker initiative" that was endorsed by the Inner Cabinet this week. They explained that the Labor plan is based on the principles of the Alon plan, plus border amendments in the Jerusalem area and the Qalqilyah-Tulkarm District. Conversely, the Baker initiative, unless accompanied by a prior understanding with the United States regarding a permanent settlement, is liable to have no significant border modifications for Israel.

And indeed, from many aspects, the Israeli response to Baker's five points is more important than the government initiative as endorsed on 14 May. The reason is that after the efficiency of U.S. pressure has been proven, there remains no doubt that this week Israel embarked on a process that will lead to indirect negotiations with the PLO and to the implementation of the "territories for peace" principle, which is a mandatory part of the Camp David accords. In these negotiations on elections in the territories, President Mubarak and the Palestinians to be appointed by the PLO will take the place of King Husayn and of those Palestinians who were supposed to have been included in his delegation. Egypt's participation in this process is inherent in the Camp David accords, which stated explicitly that if Jordan refuses to enter negotiations with Israel for the establishment of autonomy, Egypt will take its place. For that reason, autonomy talks were held alternately in Egypt and in Israel, and it can be presumed that this process will now repeat itself.

This assessment is based on the fact that the final English version endorsed by the Inner Cabinet and submitted to the United States came out more softened than the version debated by the forum of four. The final version, modified by Ministers Moshe Arens and Moshe Shahal, weakened the impression created by the attachment of conditions which accompanied the endorsement of Baker's five points. The final version also adopted the Camp David agreement's style with regard to the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and left an opening for talks outside the procedural framework of negotiations for elections in the territories.

Assuming that the PLO also will eventually embrace the Baker initiative and authorize President Mubarak to accept appropriate guarantees from the United States, a protracted process of bargaining is expected to begin for the composition of the Palestinian delegation and for the inclusion of "deportees" and East Jerusalem residents. In light of past experience, it can be presumed even at this point that Israel will reject several names Egypt will propose after coordination with 'Arafat—at least to "prove" that it does not negotiate with the PLO. Egypt and the United States, on the other hand, having already been through a similar scenario, also will have prepared several names of alternative Palestinian representatives, who will in the end be acceptable to Israel.

For the very reason that this scenario is so clear, generally speaking, it is essential to seize this moment to reach a prior understanding with the United States regarding a permanent arrangement. [passage omitted]

The Israeli public largely agrees to doing so. Therefore, the prime minister should take advantage of his upcoming visit to Washington to reach an understanding on their implementation with President Bush.

Milo Says Israel Has Right To Veto Delegation

TA0811122989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Report by Yo'el Nir]

[Excerpt] The government is expected to survive the no-confidence motions scheduled to be voted on in today's Knesset session. The three factions that submitted the motions—Tehiya, Tzomet, and Moledet—explained them this morning. Minister Roni Milo replied on behalf of the government. Let us listen to his reply:

[Begin Milo recording] Together with the rejection of the proposal I have mentioned, the Inner Cabinet expressed willingness to discuss the U.S. proposal, which is based on a tripartite meeting of Israel, Egypt, and the United States, for the discussion of the Palestinian delegation's composition.

In talks held between Israel and the United States on the implementation of the U.S. proposal, Israel expressed its willingness to participate in the suggested stage of preliminary negotiations with a Palestinian delegation, while insisting on the following principles:

1. The Palestinian delegation will be composed of residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and will be agreed upon in consultations between Israel, Egypt, and the United States. Israel will not agree to the inclusion of PLO people or their emissaries in the delegation.

2. The preliminary negotiations preceding the negotiations with the Palestinian delegation will be on the issue of implementing the election procedure; issues of substance will be discussed only with the representation that is elected in these elections.

The proposal of the U.S. secretary of state, which was formulated during discussions on the five-point plan, was accompanied by a declaration that the United States supports the Israeli peace initiative and that its proposal aims to promote the initiative. Moreover, the Americans have offered to give Israel guarantees that will allay its fears.

It is to be noted that clause No. 3 of the U.S. proposal states unequivocally that Israel in fact has the right of veto over the composition of the Palestinian delegation. If this delegation is unacceptable to Israel, Israel, with the concurrence of the United States, will join no negotiating move. [end recording]

The above were some of the remarks made by Roni Milo. [passage omitted] [In a similar report, Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1200 GMT quotes Milo as saying that "the Cabinet has not established a position on the issue of East Jerusalem Arabs. According to him, their participation in elections in the framework of autonomy would be the first step toward the dissociation of East Jerusalem from the rest of the city."]

Knesset Defeats No-Confidence Motions

TA0811151889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] The Cabinet has again emerged unscathed from the no-confidence vote in the Knesset initiated by Moledet, Tzomet, and Tehiya. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the no-confidence motion was supported by 5 Knesset members [MK's] from these factions. At the same time, 37 coalition members voted against the no-confidence motion in the Cabinet and, against the backdrop of political events, supported the Cabinet.

Ten MK's abstained. They were: The members of the Citizens Rights Movement, MAPAM [United Workers Movement], Shinuy, and the Likud's Yiga'el Hurvitz. The four NRP [National Religious Party] MK's left the plenary hall during the vote, while two of the supporters of the constraints in the Likud, MK's Rivlin and Goldstein, remained in the hall but did not vote.

Agudat Yisra'el Delays Secession From Coalition

TA0811152389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Agudat Yisra'el has decided to secede from the coalition, but will wait 2 months to see whether the Likud is making good on the agreement that had been reached. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Minister Nisim was apprised of the decision. The Agudat Yisra'el members pledged not to support the establishment of a narrow-based government during the 2 trial months.

Arens To Open Talks With Japanese Officials

TA0811210989 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, who is on an official visit to Japan, is due to begin political talks in Tokyo in several hours. Mr Arens is scheduled to meet with the Japanese prime minister and foreign minister. The first day of the foreign minister's visit to Japan was dedicated to visiting high-tech factories. Ya'ir Stern, our special correspondent to Tokyo reports:

[Begin recording] [Stern] The foreign minister and his small entourage were met by rainy November weather upon their arrival in Tokyo. The capital of Japan is a bustling city of 10 million people. The noise and confusion here are terrific and Tokyo is quickly turning into the New York of the East, with an even greater traffic problem but much cleaner streets.

Foreign Minister Arens' trip began with a tour of the science city—a futuristic city situated 2 hours from

Tokyo where yesterday's dream is today's hope and tomorrow's reality. The visit, however, also has a political side of predominant importance. Japan supports the Palestinian issue. It just recently upgraded the level of the PLO office in Tokyo to the representation of the state of Palestine. Yasir 'Arafat was received with full honors when he visited 1 month ago. The representatives of the Japanese media repeatedly asked the foreign minister why Israel refuses to recognize the PLO and negotiate with this organization.

[Arens] First of all, I understand that people here are very interested in the peace process, and this is an opportunity for me to update the Japanese administration. I will meet with the prime minister and with the foreign minister and discuss the situation, and especially the correct decision taken by the Cabinet pursuant to the Israeli peace initiative. Of course, countries such as Japan can contribute to the Israeli peace initiative. First of all, by influencing the other Arab states to start normalizing relations with Israel. There are 19 Arab countries that declare themselves to be at a state of war with Israel. There is also the third point in our peace initiative that concerns the rehabilitation of the refugee camps in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. This is an issue in which we are trying to find a willingness for cooperation from countries such as the United States, Japan, and the EC.

[Stern] Tomorrow Arens is scheduled to meet with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and with Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama. He also will meet with the representatives from the two houses of the Japanese parliament. The talks will not only deal with the political situation but also with widespread economic, scientific, and cultural cooperation. The volume of Israel's trade relations with Japan has greatly expanded and in 1990 it is expected to reach $2 billion. Israel is already trying to strengthen its representation in Japan.

[Arens] We are about to make sure that a significant part of the staff will speak Japanese, so we will be capable of establishing a direct contact between ourselves and the Japanese.

[Stern] How about opening consulates in other cities?

[Arens] We have already decided in principle to open a consulate in Osaka. It is a budget issue, and I hope we will talk about it.

[Stern] Japan has received the Israeli foreign minister with full honors according to the Japanese custom. But beside the ritual aspect, Arens will have some serious convincing to do. During his meetings tomorrow with the Japanese prime minister and foreign minister, he will have to try to reduce the extent of Japanese support for the PLO and explain the crucial problems Israel faces. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 8 November reports that "the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem said that Foreign Minister Arens never said that negotiations on a Palestinian state are possible. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that he is convinced that Minister Arens' remarks to reporters in Japan were misquoted and added that the foreign minister objects to the establishment of a Palestinian state."]

Peres Receives Polish Solidarity Delegation

TA0811184389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Vice Premier Shim'on Peres met this evening with a delegation of Solidarity Union officials visiting as guests of the Histadrut. It is the first official visit of Solidarity members to Israel. Peres said he hoped Poland and Israel would establish full diplomatic ties in the near future.

Katyushas Fired at 'Security Zone' in Lebanon

TA0911093689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Several Katyusha rockets fired from an area north of the security zone landed within the zone near the Israeli border about an hour ago. We have just been told that nobody was hurt and no damage was caused.

State of Alert Declared

TA0911095989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0947 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Here is another update from the north: Several Katyusha rockets were fired a short time ago from Lebanese territory at the Galilee Panhandle as well. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused. Earlier, Katyusha rockets also landed in the security zone. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that children in Metulla have been moved to air raid shelters and local inhabitants have been asked not to leave their homes. A very high state of alert has been declared in the entire area.

Amnesty To Coordinate Reports With Ministry

TA0811184089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Amnesty International has agreed to an Israeli request to discuss the contents of its future reports with the Israeli authorities prior to publication. The agreement was reached in London yesterday with Israel's Justice Minister Dan Meridor. Our correspondent Jerry Lewis gives us the details from London:

[Begin recording] [Lewis] Amnesty International reports about human rights abuses in Israel and the territories have long been an irritant to the Israeli authorities, and in order to clear the air, their Secretary General Ian Martin took advantage of a brief visit to Britain by Israeli Justice Minister Dan Meridor to discuss the relationship between them. Mr Meridor explained the special situation facing Israel in the territories, in particular the fact that there was an organization which, he

maintained, tries to dominate the population of the area under Israeli military administration using terror and intimidation, and trying to prevent any progress in the peace process.

He also emphasized there was a basic difference between human rights in countries like Switzerland and Sweden and those such as Israel and Northern Ireland. Mr Meridor then proposed that Amnesty devote more time to discussions with his Justice Ministry, which he pointed out is their point of contact with the Israeli authorities, as it coordinates information from the police, army, and other sources. He said they should not complete their reports from information mainly based on Arab sources despite Amnesty's free and relatively easy access to those Palestinians who have complaints.

[Meridor] They told me that they do the checking, but I apprised them that they would be much better off if they know our position in advance before they issue their reports, and they agreed that they would have more time allotted to talks with our people before they issue reports. I think if this takes place, as we agreed today, it will improve the flow of information and counter-information, if one may say so, between us and Amnesty, and improve the quality of their reports. [end recording]

Update on 7 Nov Incidents in Territories

TA0811095389 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 8 Nov 89 p 6

[Report by Oren Kohen, Mikhal Qedem, and Ya'ir Nehoray]

[Excerpts] The West Bank yesterday witnessed a stormy day during which a 13-year-old boy was killed and 29 others were hurt, some by tear gas and others by beatings. There were no causalties in the Gaza Strip yesterday. Besides several disturbances, a quiet day was registered there.

Mu'awiya Hasan, 13, was killed by Border Police gunfire during demonstrations staged in Qalqilyah yesterday to commemorate fellow resident Za'im Mahmud Da'ud Haj Hasan, who was killed the previous day while attempting to cross the Jordan border. The boy killed yesterday is a cousin of the latter. Arab sources reported that the policemen fired at students who were demonstrating inside a schoolyard. Hasan was wounded in the stomach. According to the sources, the boy was taken not to a hospital but to the Civil Administration building, where he died of his wounds. [passage omitted]

The Qalqilyah Hospital yesterday registered a total of 25 casualties, most of whom were children who were injured by plastic bullets, beatings, or tear gas.

Official military sources reported that a Border Police patrol encountered a group of masked men who were setting tires on fire. The patrol followed procedures for stopping suspects and fired several plastic bullets. According to the sources, the wounded boy was treated on the spot by a military physician but died of his wounds. The army wishes to stress that the boy who was killed was not a school student, but a member of a gang of masked youths. [passage omitted]

Nabil al-Hashimi, 28, was murdered in Nabulus yesterday. He was probably suspected of collaborating with the authorities. His body was found gagged and axed. A 45-year-old female resident of the Balatah refugee camp was beaten for the same reason. She was hospitalized in serious condition in Rafidiyah Hospital in Nabulus. Ibrahim Fatah al-Harb was also attacked by masked men in Rafah yesterday. He was hospitalized in critical condition in al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus. [passage omitted]

The Gaza Strip was quiet yesterday, and riots were registered only at a Bayt Hanun school.

Ya'ir Nehoray reports: Major General (Reserves) Dani Mat was injured in the ear by a stone thrown at his car near the Qalandiyah refugee camp yesterday. [passage omitted]

Islamists Win 25 Seats in Parliamentary Voting

JN0911185089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Excerpt] In Jordan, the near-final results of the parliamentary elections held yesterday have been announced. The results showed great headway by the fundamentalist movement and its supporters, who won approximately one-third of the parliamentary seats. Opponents of the former government also achieved success. It has been observed that young faces have won in the elections at the expense of traditional figures, especially in rural areas.

King Husayn is now expected to make a goverment reshuffle. He may announce this during a news conference very soon, even during the next few hours. For more details on the results of the elections we listen to our correspondent in Amman, Randah Habib:

[Begin Habib recording] The names of the deputies who won the seats of the House of Representatives were announced this evening following yesterday's elections—the first in 22 years. This is with the exception of the names of the nine deputies for the al-Karak Governorate, which are expected to be announced at any moment.

The results indicate that the Islamic current, which includes the Muslim Brotherhood group and its supporters, will constitute one-third of the deputies. Twenty candidates from the Islamic Movement Bloc, which nominated 26 candidates, have won, in addition to another five candidates from among their supporters. [passage omitted] [end recording]

King Husayn Speaks to Reporters on Elections

JN0811125089 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1035 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Interview with King Husayn at the information center at the Plaza Hotel by a group of unidentified reporters on 8 November; monitored in progress—live]

[Text] [King Husayn, in progress] ...their full right to participate in drawing the future image. Praise be to God, everthing is proceeding well. There is tranquillity, calm, and discipline. Many citizens have so far fulfilled their role. God willing, we expect that all results will be good. This is the end of a stage and the starting point of a promising future, God willing. We have always appreciated the citizens' awareness. I believe that our appreciation is rightly placed on the citizen's awareness of the importance of his role and contribution at this particular stage. God willing, the experience.... I should not say experience, rather the process will be successful in the full sense of the word, and that Jordan will be an example for others in this world.

[Reporter] Your majesty, what are the most prominent features of the coming stage?

[King Husayn] We will speak about the coming stage at the right time.

[Reporter] Sir, are you going to exercise your right in the elections?

[King Husayn] I am deprived of this right by force of the Constitution.

[Reporter] Your Majesty King Husayn, there are several issues and topics on the agenda of the coming House of Representatives. In your opinion, what are the most important issues that the House of Representatives will discuss?

[King Husayn] I believe it would be appropriate not to answer this question now. I have avoided giving any opinion throughout the past preparatory stage of the elections. However, the House of Representatives will open soon. There also will be the speech from the throne. There might be other opportunities before that to determine the landmarks of the future.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, will it be necessary to form a new Cabinet in light of the election of the coming House of Representatives?

[King Husayn] I believe that after the inauguration of the House and after delivering the speech from the throne, there will be a Cabinet reshuffle, because this will be the end of one stage and the beginning of another.

[Reporter] Will the new House of Representatives participate in formulating the national charter, God willing?

[King Husayn] You will have an answer to this question at the right time.

[Reporters] Thank you, Your Majesty.

[Reporter—in English] Radios and televisions are broadcasting live, and our listeners on the short wave throughout the world, especially Jordanian expatriates, are listening to us now. What do you have to tell us. How are you feeling?

[King Husayn—in English] I am feeling extremely proud, and extremely happy, and extremely satisfied that a phase has ended in our lives, and a new one is beginning today. I am very happy with the preparations for the general elections, and I am very happy with the fact that, for the first time, so many Jordanians, men and women, are taking part in these elections. I have always had the greatest confidence and the good judgment of our people and their awareness of the needs of the times. So, it is an end of a phase, and a new, very promising beginning. And, I certainly hope that this will be the case, and this will, as a day, be a historic day in the future and in the life of this country.

[Reporter—in English] On this historic day, and very, very special day in our lives, do you have a special message that you would like to give to the voters and to the candidates at the same time?

[King Husayn—in English] I believe it is right for me not to have made any suggestions during this phase. I kept quiet; I watched; I made my views as the observant of Jordan and the Jordanians before the campaign started. So now, the ball is in your court, and I hope that they will come up to expectations, and I am sure they will.

[Reporters] Thank you very much.

Camp Residents' Election Priorities Discussed

JN0811092589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Nov 89 p 3

[Article by Mariam M. Shahin, JORDAN TIMES staff writer]

[Text] Amman—"Ladies and gentlemen, please observe a minute of silence so that we may honour the victims of the intifada and the victims of the revolt," says a candidate running in the al-Balqa' District before presenting his election platform.

In al-Balqa', and all over Jordan, everyone is speaking of Palestine, the intifada and Palestinian people's dedication to liberation in an apparent attempt to win the "Palestinian vote" in today's elections.

Alongside the calls to eliminate corruption, put an end to martial law, and allow for the formation of political parties, almost all candidates, or at least 90 per cent of them, are talking about the issue of Palestine. In a country where Jordanians of Palestinian origin number anywhere from 30 to 65 per cent of the total population, the question of Palestine is considered a top priority issue. At least the candidates seem to think so.

Although political ties between the Kingdom and the occupied territories were officially severed last summer in a political decision that popularly became known as "the disengagement," many Jordanians, of both East and West Bank origin, have indicated that in spirit at least the people are one.

Some candidates have performed "an overkill" as one voter put it, when visiting local clubs, which have grouped Palestinians according to their towns and villages of origin, by basing three-quarters of their election speech on ways to support the intifada and voicing support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) or not voicing support for the PLO.

While one would expect that in the refugee camps scattered mostly across northern and central Jordan, Palestinian refugees would hammer away at that Palestine question, some observers may be surprised to hear that while putting support of the intifada at the top of their list, camp residents are very concerned about local issues that affect their daily lives.

In the al-Wihdat camp, a female relative of a candidate explained to other women that they "must vote because there is no Jordanian-Palestinian identity problem, it is a question of having our say in our day lives." [as published]

Meanwhile her candidate relative told the men in the next room how he would solve the camps' sewage and water problems if he got to Parliament.

In al-Baq'ah and the camps in northern Jordan, camp residents are questioning candidates sharply on what social and municipal services he will lobby for if elected to Parliament. "We have open sewers and no running water. Proper public transportation is not available for people in our camp who work in Amman and we have a hundred other problems that need care from government agencies," said one voter from al-Baq'ah camp.

"We need an effective representative in Parliament, not just a poet."

Another clarified one of several positions taken by Palestinians in Jordan. "I approve of the disengagement because it strengthens the PLO position and is the first step to statehood."

Fundamentalist and "Islamist" candidates on the whole, have rejected the disengagement and attacked the PLO leadership for "selling out." Muslim Brotherhood supporters, young and old, have responded by chanting in agreement, "Jihad is our way to Palestine."

Candidates with leftist and Arab-nationalist leanings on the other hand have stated that they tacitly support the political disengagement although they believe economic cooperation should not have been curbed. "On the political level a disengagement is possible for now, although I hope a union in the form of a confederation will eventually result after the state of Palestine is established, but I believe an economic disengagement will not serve either side's interests in the long run," said an Arab nationalist candidate in al- Karak. "A cultural disengagement cannot occur; all Jordanians through blood, marriage or feeling are somehow Palestinian as well."

Some camp residents pointed out that the attention being given to the Palestine issue in campaign debates in the "bourgeois areas" is understandable because as one camp candidate put it "economically they worry about the value of the dollar and how many trips they can afford to take this year. Politically they want businessmen to represent them in Parliament and the verbal support of the intifada is like a vote for their conscious [as published]. We in the camps will return to Palestine when we can, unlike the rich Palestinians, but in the meantime we have to live as well."

Although almost all candidates of all political persuasions have at least mentioned support of the intifada in their campaign platform, one candidate in the Third District is proudly pointing out to voters that he has not because "support of the intifada is so much understood that it doesn't have to be mentioned."

'Awn Rejects Ja'ja' Mediation Offer

NC0811140889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] According to reports from the eastern areas, 'Awn has rejected proposals made by Lebanese Forces commander Samir Ja'ja' during their meeting on the day the president of the republic was elected. 'Awn referred to these proposals in his news conference yesterday but without going into details. The reports say that Ja'ja' proposed to 'Awn that he would mediate between 'Awn and Rene Mu'awwad through some mutually trusted figures and friends with the aim of holding a meeting between Mu'awwad and 'Awn to reach an understanding and common denominators.

According to these reports, Ja'ja' believes that the election of Mu'awwad cannot be rejected. 'Awn rejected the offer and asked Ja'ja': Do I understand That you are saying that Sulayman Franjiyah Junior is a mutually trusted person and friend just because Patriarch Sfayr did not find in al-Diman, according to 'Awn, anything but praise for Franjiyah Junior's important role in achieving reconciliation and laying down the basis for unity among the Christians?

'Awn added: Has Franjiyah settled his account with you? Are you asking me to accept this? The problem is that I need to convince you that the problem is not with Mu'awwad but with others.

The reports add that Ja'ja' refused to be included in a new government that 'Awn proposed to expand his present government. He told 'Awn that he will not take a clear stand on the elections and the al-Ta'if document before the outcome of the contacts becomes clear and that this is the most he can do at present.

'Awn's Office Clarifies 'President' Claim Report

NC0800231500 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] The prime minister's office has issued a statement clarifying and commenting on a report disseminated by foreign news agencies to the effect that Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has declared that he is the president of free and sovereign Lebanon. The report as published is incomplete. Gen 'Awn, the prime minister's office added, was drawing a comparison between the status of his legitimate government and that of the illegitimate government that exists in areas under Syrian occupation.

'Awn Statement at 7 November News Conference

NC0911112489 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 8 Nov 89 pp 2, 9

[Excerpt] [Passage Omitted] General Michel 'Awn held a news conference at the Republican Palace in B'abda at 1520 yesterday. The conference was attended by a large number of local and foreign correspondents. Entering the conference hall, he told the journalists: May God increase your number; may God protect you; and we are all committed. He then read the following statement:

O Lebanese. When the war of sovereignty was imposed on us, we did not wage it because we loved war, because we insanely liked weapons, or because we were eager to die. We waged it to defend our dignity and existence. When our people launched the march of liberation, offered sacrifices and victims, stood fast in the face of the blockade, and persevered in the face of privation, they did not do this in order to find a president for a nonexistent republic but to recover a homeland converted by occupation forces into republics, protectorates, and farms for terrorism, humiliation, and drugs.

The people lost martyrs in the shelters, streets, and houses of the free and occupied areas. Their martyrdom was not for the sake of authorizing someone to annoint the occupation with their blood and to forfeit al-Biqa', the North, and the South. Our martyrs who fell in Suq al-Gharb in defense of the entire homeland did not die for the sake of those who made the homeland's sovereignty a commodity that could be bought and sold and that was put up for auction in the al-Ta'if market and al-Qulay'at airport. Our people did not offer martyrs and did not sacrifice their sons and property in order to legalize occupation and hegemony over the highest national decision authority. Our people did not offer their blood as a price for cabinet portfolios and parliamentary seats to be shared by party leaders who until recently refused to let anyone upstage them in their demands for sovereignty, dignity, and liberation.

We fought, stood fast, and sacrificed to liberate the decision, the land, and the republic and to earn our dignity. The blood we offered was in no way authorization for anyone to squander sovereignty in al-Ta'if and al-Qulay'at. We did not fight for 8 months in 1989 in order to return to September 1976. We provided them [deputies] with our blood so that they would be strict on the subject of sovereignty, not so that they would sign an agreement in al-Ta'if more humiliating than the tripartite agreement or to elect a Lebanese president for a Syrian Republic in Lebanon.

We fought to save freedom and democracy, not to give them freedom to betray, display false manliness, and share gains over the debris of freedom, democracy, and the people's will. Our people will not allow anyone to turn a race for martyrdom and sacrifice into a race for seats and to appease the guns that killed our people, destroyed our houses, and demolished our freedom, democracy, and prosperity. We will not allow those who violated the sovereignty and constitution, who divided the land, and who usurped legality to be given a clean bill and a legal cover for their crime of abandoning Lebanon. Our people will continue the liberation march. Their march will not be obstructed by those who were tempted by blandishments and who replaced the blood oath with the ink of compromise. This people will reject those who have abandoned them.

I express my pride in this people. I also express my deep faith that no force will prevent them from achieving their dream of freedom, dignity, and sovereignty. I call on this people to return to their daily work after they have expressed their hopes and feelings. I affirm to the Lebanese people in all Lebanese areas that we will stay together and keep working together until we achieve the supreme national objectives. We will not allow anyone to cheapen the blood of the martyrs and innocent children. The march of humiliation from the Bkirki deputies statement to the al- Ta'if document to the al-Qulay'at farce must stop. No one should accuse us of obstructing solutions. We go along with any solution accepted by our people and against any solution rejected by them. Long live Lebanon.

Gen 'Awn then fielded a number of questions:

[Question] The elected president says that the Syrian and Lebanese people are one people in two countries. This reminds us of President al-Asad's statement to the same effect. What is your comment?

['Awn] You have asked a question and answered it yourself.

[Question] After the al-Ta'if accord and the al-Qulay'at elections, what is the eastern area's relationship with the other areas and with the elected president?

['Awn] He is not an elected president. The Chamber of Deputies was dissolved before the elections. From this premise, Rene Mu'awwad is a former deputy.

[Question] Do you recognize him as president?

['Awn] No. He is a northern leader. As far as we are concerned, he is not a president. [passage omitted]

Lahd Calls for Support for Mu'awwad

TA0811142389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, supports the new Lebanese president. Interviewed last night on the South Lebanese television station [Middle East TV], Lahd called on the local residents to support President Mu'awwad, whom he described as an old friend and a seasoned diplomat. At the same time, he pointed out that he was disappointed by the newly elected president's call for the removal of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from the security strip. Lahd believes the supreme priority is the removal of the Syrian Army.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht adds that Gen Lahd spoke only briefly and that he looked very ill.

There were demonstrations in support of Gen 'Awn in Marj 'Uyun and al-Naqurah yesterday and this morning. The new president was jeered.

Khaddam Comments After Meeting Karami

NC0811151889 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Statement by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents, after his meeting with lawyer 'Umar Karami in northern Lebanon on 8 November—recorded]

[Text] [Khaddam] Brother 'Umar Karami and I exchanged views on the situation in Lebanon, on the new phase that began with the endorsement of the national accord document and the election of His Excellency Rene Mu'awwad, and on ways of bolstering the national accord process, restoring Lebanon's unity and security, and ensuring the safety of the Lebanese. I need not say that our views were identical on all matters discussed.

[Correspondent] Mr Vice President, you have said that you will help the state establish its authority over all of Lebanon. Is there any intention to withdraw Syrian forces from specific areas?

[Khaddam] This matter is not [words indistinct]. Withdrawal has nothing to do with the question of establishment of authority. Regarding the subject of establishment of authority, as provided for in the national accord document, Syria is called upon to extend assistance. Syria has been extending such assistance since 1976. It will continue to do so. It will meet every request by the national accord government to establish its authority and consolidate the role of the Lebanese state's institutions and the national accord process.

[Corresppondent] Do you still regard General 'Awn as constituting an obstacle to reconciliation and a solution? If so, how can this obstacle be overcome?

[Khaddam] The deviationist clique in East Beirut is trying to obstruct a national solution in Lebanon. However, we are reassured that the national accord government will have all the capabilities and resources to remove any obstacle, whatever it is and whatever its source.

[Correspondent] Will this obstacle be removed politically or militarily, in Your Excellency's view?

[Khaddam] This matter should be decided by the national accord government. One expects this government to be strong and capable of establishing its authority. We will provide it with everything it asks for in order to boost its ability to establish its influence and authority and restore the country's unity. I do not believe that anyone will be able to constitute a serious obstacle to the national accord process and the national accord government's march.

[Correspondent] Mr Vice President: Do you believe that the existing situation in the eastern area will continue for a long time?

[Khaddam] The eastern area has been kidnapped [makhtufah]. Our people and kinfolk in the eastern area are now experiencing the suffering of those who are in a hijacked plane or ship. We hope that their suffering will not last long.

[Correspondent] Will the national forces participate in the government?

[Khaddam] [Words indistinct] national accord government. In any case, this matter has been left, according to the provisions of the Constitution, for His Excellency President Rene Mu'awwad to discuss with the members of the Chamber of Deputies and political leaders in the country. We wish His Excellency President Mu'awwad success in achieving the tasks and the aspirations of the fraternal Lebanese people.

[Correspondent] Mr Vice President, in light of your talks with His Excellency President Mu'awwad, do you believe that the formation of a new Lebanese government will be long delayed?

[Khaddam] The issue of the government was not in fact discussed, because we are not concerned with this question. It is a matter for our brothers in Lebanon. We mainly discussed, in a general way, the means of strengthening the national accord march, attaining and implementing this accord, and restoring the Lebanese state's role and institutions. I reiterated to his excellency what His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad told the Lebanese president in his cable of congratulations; namely, that Syria will spare no efforts to back and support the accord march under the leadership of His Excellency President Mu'awwad.

Departs for Damascus

NC0811160289 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam left for Damascus today after a visit to the north of the country, where he stayed in Zgharta and had a meeting with former President Sulayman Franjiyah. He then went to Tripoli, where he met with lawyer 'Umar Karami and then with deputy Salih al-Khayr.

Syrian Army Reinforces Presence in West Beirut

NC0811204289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] The Syrian Army reinforced its presence in West Beirut today. Syrian special units took up positions on main and minor roads and isolated entire areas, causing traffic congestion.

This Syrian step coincided with the explosion of a booby-trapped car, which killed 2 people and wounded 17, and the arrival in West Beirut of President Rene Mu'awwad.

Army Positions in Bsaba Under Fire

NC0811154089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1528 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Army positions in the Bsaba hills have been subjected to bursts of antiaircraft fire from positions in al-Ma'rufiyah since approximately 1600 today.

'Awn Increases B'abda Security Measures

NC0811135689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] According to reports from the eastern area, Michel 'Awn has taken new stringent security measures around the presidential palace he is occupying in B'abda and around the Defense Ministry building in al-Yarzah. These reports say that 'Awn has changed his security guards for the third time and informed senior military officers that the security radius around B'abda palace extends 1,000 meters and accordingly no one will be allowed to carry weapons in this area except those with special licenses and orders issued by him personally.

The reports add that 'Awn has informed all departments that any violation of this order and the deployment of any military vehicle without specific orders in this area will impel the republican guards to use their weapons in accordance with the strict orders issued to them.

Officers have also been banned from entering B'abda palace with their personal weapons. Instructions have been issued to search the briefcases of all officers except those who carry personal authority from 'Awn.

The reports also say that 'Awn has dismissed his secretary and appointed his daughter in her place. He also put Fadi Sarkis in charge of the computer and the data in the B'abda computer systems.

It has been learned that gunfire was heard for 10 minutes last night between gunmen from the Lebanese Forces barracks near al-Kaslik University and elements from al-Yarzah army. A student demonstration yesterday headed toward al- Kaslik University and tried to enter it, but Lebanese forces' gunmen opened fire on the demonstrators, imposed strict security around the building, and prevented the demonstrators from entering.

President Mu'awwad Leaves al-Qulay'at

NC0811145989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] President Rene Mu'awwad left al-Qulay'at Airport for Beirut Airport aboard a Middle East Airlines plane at approximately 1530 today. It is not known where President Mu'awwad will reside in West Beirut. Some sources believe it likely that Mu'awwad will stay at one of the city's hotels.

Arrives in West Beirut

NC0811161689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Excerpt] After 3 days of contacts and consultations which he began immediately after being elected president of the republic, Rene Mu'awwad has gone to West Beirut. He arrived there shortly after 1600 today to continue his consultations on the appointment of a head of the national accord government.

President Mu'awwad arrived at Beirut International Airport aboard a private Middle East Airlines plane. He was accompanied by Deputies Albert Mansur, Edmond Rizq, Shafiq Badr, and Pierre Hilu.

The president's plane landed at the airport amid stringent security measures. [passage omitted]

To Reside in al-Ramlat al-Bayda'

NC0911065089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 NOV 89

[Text] President Rene Mu'awwad arrived in Beirut from al- Qulay'at military airfield in the north yesterday afternoon aboard a special Middle East Airlines plane, along with Deputies Edmond Rizq, Albert Mansur, Pierre Hilu, and Shafiq Badr. The president went directly from Beirut airport to the house of [Saudi businessman] Rafiq al-Hariri in al-Ramlat al-Bayda', where he will reside temporarily.

Unidentified Persons Throw Bomb at Deputy's Car

NC0911065389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 NOV 89

[Text] Unidentified persons threw an explosive device under the car of [Druze] Deputy Tawfiq 'Assaf at approximately 2300 yesterday.

Explosive Goes off Under Deputy Ma'luf's Car

NC0911113089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] According to reports from the eastern area today, an explosive device went off under the car of Deputy Nasri al-Ma'luf in al-Hazimiyah last night. The reports add that General Michel 'Awn's forces cordoned off the scene of the explosion to prevent the spread of the news.

Correction to 'Awn News Conference at Ba'abda

NC0811224589

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "'Awn Holds News Conference at Ba'abda Palace" published in the 8 November Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT on pages 38-44:

Page 38, column two, paragraph one, sentence one should read: [Text] [Reporter]...Mr Prime... (changing processing indicator)

From page 44, column two, paragraph one, last sentence should read: ...am for freedom.

['Awn] In French please, for the sake of the others.

[Reporter] General 'Awn, President Rene Mu'awwad will form a government, and he is likely to appoint a new Army commander in chief. Your present position is uncomfortable and will become untenable. You will be practically outside the law.

['Awn] Sir, [passage indistinct] it is not by the power of the Lebanese public or Constitution. If you recognize the other president, I do not. He is the one who is nonexistent from the point of view of our laws and legitimacy.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

['Awn] Excuse me, would you repeat the last part of your question?

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

['Awn] No, in any case I act freely and independently of others. That is clear, and more than [words indistinct]. Look, ours is a constitutional government, definitely free, and it represents all of Lebanon and the wishes of all free Lebanese. There are only collaborators who belong to the other (?side). This is a stable, constant, and immutable fact. This is not the [words indistinct] alloted to the Babrak Marmal of the other side so that I would give up my post as prime minister, my responsibility, and my national duty.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] and proclaiming a sovereign and independent state?

['Awn] Why proclaim it? I represent a sovereign and independent state. It should not be necessary to repeat this every day. Why? It only casts doubt on it if we do so. After all, I represent a constitutional government. I have used my prerogatives for dissolving the government in keeping with the Constitution. This step conformed with the law. At the same time, I have the legitimacy of public endorsement. Meanwhile, the others have held a meeting outside the country and so committed treason. They went to a place 2 km from the northern borders, a base occupied by the Syrians, and under their control nominated a president against the Constitution and against the unity of the country. If there is a partitionist spirit, it comes from the other side, not from this side.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

['Awn] Who? When? Never. I said that I would always be a president of free Lebanon who would constantly demand the liberation of the other parts of Lebanon.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

['Awn] Yes. I am a president, a president. For, with the Council of Ministers, I enjoy the prerogatives of the president of republic. This is in accordance with Article 62 of our Constitution. According to Article 55, I have the power to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies, as I have

done. Therefore, everything was done in accordance with the law and popular legitimacy. What else do I need in order to exercise power?

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] Yes. Certainly. I do not have to conform to their views. I only have to act according to my people's wishes and my law. If someone is unhappy outside the free areas, even if many are unhappy, this does not concern me. It concerns them.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] Yes. I hope so. If not, there are other solutions according to circumstances. There is no shortage of solutions. There are always solutions for problems. Otherwise, the world would perish if there were no solutions for the problems one faces.

[Reporter] You have mentioned, General, that you had [word indistinct] with the United Nations and diplomats. Those diplomats are currently [passage indistinct]. The United Nations—or, rather, the Security Council—has apparently recognized the government of Mu'awwad. What are you going to do? Are you going to appeal to the diplomats to return [passage indistinct]?

['Awn] [Passage indistinct] In the law, in our Constitution, there are clauses stipulating the way in which the country should be governed in such exceptional cases. Therefore, there is nothing to fear [passage indistinct] What matters is that we maintain our existence and demand this right, that these rights should not be ceded whatever happens. We have the will to live in a free, independent, and sovereign country. No one in the world can ask us to sign our own death warrant. This is the advice they give us: Sign your death warrant. This is not possible. This means you are [passage indistinct]. What is the difference between the two then? No, those who give me this advice must sign with their own hand this crime that is being committed against Lebanon. We will not sign.

[Reporter] You do not demand [words indistinct]?

['Awn] Yes. I demand what is possible. [passage indistinct]

[Reporter] President, when the French Mandate left Lebanon it left behind schools, hospitals, universities, and a legal and judiciary system. The free world is turning a blind eye to an occupation that is exporting drugs, violence, and terrorism to its children. Nowadays, U.S. television shows President Bush every evening producing a small bag of white powder that Lebanese youth do not know. He says: Watch out. Do not use drugs. How long will the free world remain a spectator?

['Awn] In order to create more interest in the situation here we are trying to draw attention to the countries where such drugs are produced.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

['Awn, laughing] You are right.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

['Awn] As a matter of principle, we should agree on an independent, sovereign, and free country. Second, I have presented the framework for such a solution a thousand times, and this framework should be met by partners, not by one person. It should not be imposed in al-Ta'if, in Beirut, or anywhere else.

I said that all the partners should (?pull their weight) in this framework for a solution. This is what I have said many times. Using this as a starting point, we can imagine a solution but [passage indistinct]. This does not suit us. These are solutions for the outside. It is arranged. The countries create these solutions and impose them on us. This will not solve the Lebanese problem. Who is happy in Lebanon now—what community, what political party? No one, because this solution does not enjoy the [word indistinct] of Lebanese society.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

['Awn] All right, what does this accomplish?

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

['Awn] No [passage indistinct] also obey the law of democracy. Even if they are [word indistinct], it concerns the people who are [word indistinct] as well.

[Reporter] Speaking of popular legitimacy, one encounters many of your supporters in these areas, but also many people who are worried and who ask especially what means you have at your disposal to complete your task. In particular they mention financial means, with the Bank of Lebanon in the other area. How can you reassure these people?

['Awn] All right. Those who [passage indistinct] we must pay them at the end of the month. They will be paid at the end of the month. They should not worry. [Passage indistinct] They are asked to resist this solution politically, and that is all they are asked to do. We will carry out the other tasks.

[Reporter] In other words, you are asking them to have blind confidence in you.

['Awn] Not blind confidence. After all, at the end of the month [passage indistinct]. I am not promising something on the moon. It is something real, limited in time and space. Yes, yes, we have the money.

[Munoz, in English] I am Francisco... (deleting editor's note, supplying omitted passage in French to provide text of item)

Editorial: 'Awn To End in 'Dustbin of History'

JN0711091889 Damascus SANA in Arabic
0730 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Damascus, 7 Nov (SANA)—In its editorial today, the newspaper TISHRIN says that the prearranged marches staged through the streets of east Beirut by youths whose feelings have been roused are similar to the fascist marches witnessed in German, Italian, and Spanish cities at a certain time.

The paper adds: These youths, who have given free rein to their feelings, have ignored the language of rationality and logic. According to the mentality of 'Awn and his clique, defending "the Christian community" now dictates that spiritual figures, foremost among whom is Patriarch Sfayr, be humiliated and that the voices of all residents of east Beirut be silenced on the pretext of defending free Lebanon.

TISHRIN affirms that with the return of its institutions and the endorsement of the national reconciliation document, the march conducive to the materialization of a unified Arab Lebanon has now unmistakably begun. The paper adds: The 'Awn clique has remained determined to obstruct the march of reconciliation and unity. However, the fate of this clique will be no better than that of all those who fought their peoples' wills only to eventually end up in the dustbin of history. The day when this actually transpires is no longer far away.

Commentary Calls 'Awn 'Dirty Tool' of 'Zionists'

JN0811155189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: A new, important phase has been launched in fraternal Lebanon by the election of a president of the republic and by the endorsement of the al-Ta'if document on national reconciliation and political reforms. This phase requires the closing of ranks and the intensification of efforts to cut short the time required for rebuilding the Lebanese state and removing the mines placed in the way of salvation and accord. These mines are represented by 'Awn and his Zionized clique, which has found it easy to declare its shameless enmity toward the will of the Lebanese people. This clique has had the audacity to continue to play the role of a dirty tool in the hands of the Zionist enemy with the aim of implementing its partition-seeking, subversive schemes. It has attacked the Lebanese people's representatives and their spiritual leaders.

These aggressions reached their climax by blatantly attacking the Patriarchate of Bkirki and also by humiliating the person of His Beatitude Patriarch Sfayr. This has exposed the true nature of 'Awn as a mutinous and lawless military man whose reckless arrogance must be stemmed. Furthermore, the strength that he derives from the enemies of Lebanon and the Arab nation must also be curbed. The great accomplishment scored by the march of salvation and accord in Lebanon has been met with a large-scale support and backing by the Arab nation and the entire world. Any reading of the reactions voiced to the results of the al-Ta'if meeting and the al-Qulay'at session held by the Lebanese deputies clearly shows that the entire world has highly valued these results and viewed them as a basic step toward redeeming Lebanon, rebuilding its institutions, and ending the ordeal of its sons once and for all. This step has embodied the national reconciliation and highlighted the Lebanese people's determination to close the file on the crisis, remove its causes, and head for the future with legitimate confidence and optimism. This is a result of the people's rallying to national reconciliation, the unprecedented Arab and international support for the march of reconciliation and salvation, and from the exposure of the role of the Zionized clique as a dirty and isolated tool. This role was rejected not only by the Lebanese people and the Arab nation, but also by the international community, which has condemned its role and viewed it as a danger that has to be removed to enable the Lebanese national reconciliation march to assume its normal proportions and proceed safely toward the desired objectives. These objectives are to promote reconciliation, achieve reforms, and unify the resources of both Lebanon and its people for the sake of liberating southern Lebanon from the Zionist occupation and terminating both its direct and indirect effects. To be more exact, the end result foreseen is ending the Zionist occupation and the Zionist influence in Lebanon, because this influence is a continuation of this occupation which poses threats and dangers to Lebanon and its security, not to mention Syria's security and the security of the Arab nation.

Hence, the success of the al-Ta'if meetings and the meetings held by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies in al-Qulay'at can be seen as a victory for the unity of Lebanon—both land and people—and also for its Arab identity; as a defeat for partition and Zionization schemes, and a setback for Israel's agents and tools who have deluded themselves that they can stand in the way of the Lebanese people's will. The reference here is to the will that abrogated the 17 May agreement, and which currently is completing its accomplishments through efforts to reestablish legal institutions, bring about national reconciliation, and proceed strongly and forcefully in performing the main task of liberating southern Lebanon from the Israeli occupation.

It goes without saying that all Lebanese nationalists of every affiliation must be aware that the Zionist enemy will not lay down its arms and accept the success achieved by the consensus of the Lebanese people and their deputies. Consequently, this enemy will move its pawn. As a matter of fact, it has moved its pawn which is there to be moved. The reference here is to 'Awn and his clique. The Zionist enemy moved this pawn to stab at

the will of the Lebanese people and to attack their unity represented by President Rene Mu'awwad.

Sources in the Lebanese Forces in east Beirut have revealed information on recent contacts between Zionist Prime Minister Shamir and 'Awn. In these contacts, Shamir affirmed his intention to continue to support 'Awn militarily. This is evidence that a new round of violence is being prepared to abort the reconciliation and unity and return Lebanon and the Lebanese to the whirlpool of blood and destruction. In addition, high-level Lebanese sources also revealed today that 'Awn is resolutely determined to declare the partition of Lebanon and to strengthen his grip on east Beirut, which is under his control. This confirms that the Zionist scheme to partition Lebanon is being implemented. Hence, the Lebanese people are faced with a decisive and fateful challenge to resist the Zionist scheme to fragment Lebanon and tear it apart. All Lebanese are called upon to /oppose this scheme and its pawns and hirelings.

The Lebanese people will have the support of Syria, which has backed them and contributed to the reconciliation formula agreed upon. Syria will continue to support and back Lebanon, its legal institutions, and its endeavors and struggle to liberate southern Lebanon and rebuild a unified Arab Lebanon—land and people. This fact, which sincere Lebanese are fully aware of, has become well- known to the Arabs and the entire world.

Khaddam Returns Home From Lebanon Visit 8 Nov

JN0811211589 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam returned home to Damascus this afternoon after concluding a short visit to Lebanon during which he conveyed President Hafiz al-Asad's congratulations to Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad on the occasion of his election as president of the Lebanese Republic. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

U.S., Pakistani, Saudi 'Advisers' Arrive

LD0911075389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT
9 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 8, BAKHTAR—The USA, Saudi Arabia and Pakistani Administrations not only mobilise and arm the extremists to intensify war inside the Republic of Afghanistan, but with the dispatch of advisors take direct part in the destructive and criminal activities of the extremist war-mongers in the land of Afghans as well. [sentence as received]

Reports reaching here say that 4 American advisors have arrived in Panjsher District to organise destructive and plunderous activities of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's groupings, especially blocking of highways connecting northern provinces to Kabul against the caravans of foodstuffs and other essential commodities bound for the capital and other provinces in the country.

Similarly, another group of the Saudi Wahhabi mercenaries has been sent to the Qala-i Sokhta [placename as received], Parvan Province to organize plunderous actions of Golbuddin groupings, headed by Fatih [name as received], on the Chaigal [placename as received]-Robat road.

According to another report, a group of 15 Pakistani engineers are dispatched to Konarha in order to survey mines there. They are dutified that with the cooperation of the extremists groups plunder material wealth and natural deposits of Afghanistan. [sentence as received]

Hezb-e Eslami Accuses U.S. of 'Devilish Plot'

BK0911014489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1947 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Nov 8 (AFP)—Washington wants to exclude the Afghan fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami group from the provisional mujahidin government, a member of the faction charged Wednesday [8 November].

'Abdul Hadi Arghandehwal [name as received], a lieutenant of Hezb leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar, said the United States was "hatching a plot" to exclude Hezb-e Eslami from the provisional government and to "eliminate the Hezb from the political scene of Afghanistan."

Mr. Arghandehwal addressed the charge, contained in a communique released here, to U.S. special envoy to the Afghan resistance, Peter Tomsen, who has been in Pakistan since Monday.

Mr. Arghandehwal said the Americans are "hell-bent on destroying the joint power of the mujahidin so that they could justify to enthrone former king Zahir Shah back in Afghanistan." The former monarch has been in exile in Rome since he was overthrown in 1973.

The U.S. Government "is hatching a devilish plot to unseat the Hezb from the interim government and hand over its (three) ministries (within the interim government) to some other organizations," he added. [passage omitted]

The mujahidin government's information minister, Najibullah Lafrai, who is affiliated with the Jamiyat-e Eslami, on Wednesday rejected the idea of a U.S. plot. "We don't see any plot," he said, adding: "Afghan people are strong enough. They (the Americans) cannot play with us."

No immediate reaction was available from Mr. Tomsen, who is visiting Peshawar city near the Afghan border where the seven-party mujahidin alliance is based. Mr. Tomsen was welcomed Wednesday by the head of the mujahidin government, Sebgatullah Mojaddedi, with whom he discussed the "military and political situation as well as international situation," Mr. Lafrai said, without elaborating.

Mr. Mojaddedi, who heads a small moderate mujahidin faction, the Jabha-e Nejat-e Mile-e [National Liberation Front], was to leave Islamabad late Wednesday for the United States for a "medical check-up," Mr. Lafrai said, adding that Mr. Mojaddedi would have talks later with U.S. officials in Washington. [passage omitted]

Rabbani Calls Shevardnadze Statement 'Propaganda'

BK0811162589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1613 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 8 (AFP)—An influential Afghan rebel leader lashed out at the Soviet leadership Wednesday [8 November] saying Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's condemnation of the Brezhnev era exposed the Kremlin's duality.

Burhanuddin Rabbani termed as "propaganda" the recent statements issued by Mr. Shevardnadze and Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's military adviser, in which they called illegal and immoral the decision by the late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev to intervene militarily in Afghanistan.

"Gorbachev and his colleagues support the legacy of the immoral act which they claim Brezhnev committed and they continue the same tragic story," Mr. Rabbani said referring to the massive arms supply to the Kabul regime.

"If the foreign minister's remarks are not just for propaganda, then Russians must practically stop the war in Afghanistan and must end the tragedy there," said Mr. Rabbani, chief of the Jamiyat-e Eslami, one of seven Sunni parties. He made the comments in an interview released by MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], the resistance-run news agency here.

"If it were really an immoral act, then why do we have all these (long range) Scud missiles and Oregan (hurricane)

rockets," asked Mr. Rabbani, who is also minister of reconstruction in the Afghan mujahidin's interim government.

According to Western diplomats here, the Soviet-backed regime has fired some 1,000 surface-to-surface Scud missiles, each costing an estimated one million U.S. dollars, on mujahidin positions since the Soviet army's withdrawal from Afghanistan in February.

Moscow was continuing its efforts "to prolong the life of the regime, and keep those elements in power, who are the cause of the Russian invasion in Afghanistan, as well as its legacy," Mr. Rabbani said.

The Soviet military aid had prolonged the bloodshed in Afghanistan, "but it cannot save the puppet regime" of Afghan President Najibullah, he said.

Mujahidin Down Fighter Plane in Lowgar Province

BK0811141889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin shot down a jet fighter plane of the Kabul regime in Kolangar District of Lowgar Province.

The Afghan interim government's news agency, MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] has reported that the mujahidin foiled the attempts of Kabul forces to reopen Lowgar-Gardeyz highway. A major portion of this highway is under the control of the mujahidin. The news agency said, in retaliation, the Kabul regime's forces bombed the residential areas of the province, killing a number of innocent civilians.

BAKHTAR Details Recent Military Successes

LD0811075789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Kabul, Nov. 7, BAKHTAR—A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that 300 ground-to-ground rockets, 600 rocket war heads, 35,000 heavy machine-gun bullets, 1,800 shells of recoilless guns, 2,000 mortar shells, 35,000 Kalashnikov bullets, 82 kg of explosives, 40 arms and foodstuff depots and a large quantity of publicity material of the extremists were discovered and confiscated by the Armed Forces in the Ashnam, Siah Chub and other vicinities of that districts, Kabul Province, and Meydan Province [placename as received] since October 31, November 6, 1989, reported an authorised military source to BAKHTAR.

Seven ground-to-air USA Stirella [as received] and Stinger rockets were bought from the extremists in the Paghman and Bagrami Districts, Kabul during the period.

Ninety families composed of 390 persons returned from Pakistan and Iran to their homes and villages in the Baghlan, Helmand, and Nangarhar Provinces.

It must be said here that since the announcement of the policy in January 1986 over 227,000 people have joined it. Severe clashes occurred among the Golbuddin, Sayyaf, Rabbani and Muhammad Nabi groupings in the Laghman, Takhar, Badakhshan and Qandahar Provinces took the lives of 50 extremists. Twenty-four others were wounded during that period.

As a result of the mopping up operations of the Armed Forces in the Helmand, Qandahar, Herat and Nangarhar Provinces and the Khowst Grand District, 505 extremists were either killed or wounded, 16 servicemen were killed and 35 others wounded during the operations in this interval.

As a result of heavy fires which took place in the arms depots of Khalis and Sayyaf in the Farah Province, large quantities of arms and ammunition were destroyed during the week. [passage omitted]

Rebels Launch Heavy Attacks in East, South

BK0811003689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1706 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov 7 (AFP)—Resistance fighters have launched heavy shelling attacks in three Afghan provinces and the government has deployed bombers and troops to dislodge mujahidin artillery and rocket positions, officials said here Tuesday [7 November].

Afghan fighter bombers and artillery units are pounding suspected rebel bases in the eastern provinces of Nangahar and Paktia and in the southern province of Qandahar where the shelling intensified some three days ago, the officials said.

"Fighting continues in these three provinces, adjacent to Pakistan," a government spokesman told reporters during a briefing here.

Mujahidin rebels fired heavy artillery rounds at military garrisons in Nangahar's Jalalabad, Samar Kheyl, Behsud and Chaparhar regions killing three soldiers and wounding seven others, the spokesman said. He said Afghan warplanes had begun bombing mujahidin strongholds in the vital province, which witnessed the biggest mujahidin offensive of the war last March.

At least 102 mujahidin rebels have either died or been wounded in the aerial bombing and artillery fire which has also destroyed two rebel munition dumps and three strongholds in the frontier province, the spokesman said. There was no independent confirmation of the casualty report.

Military sources said the government troops have used Soviet-supplied Scud surface missiles to pound rebel bases in the war-ravaged province for the past three days, but the spokesman made no mention of this.

Fighting has also flared in neighbouring Paktia Province where the rebels have launched commando-type operations in Khowst and have bombarded the nearby towns

of Ya'qubi, Tani and Zajumaidan [placename as received] killing three troopers and wounding seven, including four civilians, the spokesman said.

The official said Kabul had deployed bombers to hit mujahidin positions around Khowst and killed some 96 rebels and destroyed four munitions depots in the three days.

Government troops also fought skirmishes in the south-eastern province of Qandahar which borders Pakistan, where the rebels have launched attacks on military garrisons, he said.

"We cannot call it a war as the rebels are firing from long distance," the spokesman said, adding that sporadic fighting was still on in the three provinces.

Mujahidin Missiles Hit Kabul, Airport 8 Nov

BK0811143189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1419 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov 8 (AFP)—At least seven rockets slammed into Kabul Wednesday [8 November] after an almost three-day lull in attacks by mujahidin resistance gunners, officials and witnesses said.

An unknown number of rockets hit the city's airport and at least one landed in the uptown district of Microrayon, housing mostly government workers, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

A government spokesman confirmed the rocketting but gave no details. Work was paralysed at Kabul's international airport because of the rocket attacks, but the spokesman said that it had not been closed to flights.

The attacks triggered a new round of jitters in the city, where hundreds of civilians have died in rocket attacks since August. Figures for military casualties in the attacks are not available.

The government has recently launched military operations to flush out hidden mujahidin rocket bases in the mountains surrounding the city, firing Soviet-made missiles and salvos of artillery shells towards suspected rebel strongholds.

Bangladesh

Official Announcement: Li Peng To Visit 17 Nov

BK0811131289 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng arrives in Dhaka on the 17th of this month on a 3-day official visit to Bangladesh at the invitation of President Ershad. This was officially announced in Dhaka on Tuesday. He will be accompanied by his wife Madam Zhu Lin.

During his visit, the Chinese prime minister and President Ershad will exchange views on bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual interest. The Chinese prime minister will visit the national martyrs memorial at Savar where he will place a wreath and plant a sapling. He is also expected to visit the Bangladesh-China friendship bridge over the River Buri Ganga. His entourage will included Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Qian Qichen, Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Zheng Tuobin, and other senior officials.

Ershad Commissions Chinese-Supplied Frigate

BK0411155289 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] President Ershad has underscored the need for a self-sufficient and well-equipped navy for the country to ensure peace and stability in the region. The president was addressing the commissioning ceremony of "BNS [Bangladesh Naval Ship] Osman" at the Navy jetty in Chittagong today. He said Bangladesh is to build a dependable naval force to achieve socio-economic development as defense and development go together in the present world.

The president said the Navy is entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring security of our vast territorial waters to help stabilize the country's economic base. He described the Navy as ever vigilant sentinels and they have demonstrated patriotism, dutifullness, and strong will in serving the nation. The addition of the frigate "BNS Osman" has laid the foundation of a modern naval strategy for Bangladesh Navy, he added. The president urged the officers and jawans [soldiers] of the Navy to utilize the hard-earned resources of the country for the welfare of the people.

President Ershad thanked China for supplying the "BNS Osman" for the Bangladesh Navy and said the frigate is a symbol of friendship.

The chief of naval staff, Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed, who also spoke on the occasion, said the addition of "BNS Osman" to Bangladesh Navy will go a long way in meeting its requirement.

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General M. Atiqur Rahman, Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Mumatazuddin Ahmed, and Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Songlu, were among those present on the occasion.

Commentary Hails PRC Support

BK0511145689 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] With the commissioning of the missile-guided frigate "BNS [Bangladesh Naval Ship] Osman," the Bangladesh Navy is now one more step forward toward its modernization efforts. A self-sufficient and well-equipped navy is essential for Bangladesh to ensure peace and stability in the region. At the commissioning ceremony of "BNS Osman" at Chittagong the other day,

President Ershad has rightly underscored the role of our Navy. As noted by the president, we have been able to build up the infrastructure of our naval force with our limited resources. The sense of duty and patriotic services rendered by the officers and sailors of the Bangladesh Navy in their assigned fields bear out their improved operational skills and wholehearted devotion to the cause of the nation.

The Bangladesh Navy side by side with the Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Air Force are making ceaseless efforts to achieve the national objectives. The nation has given the Navy the great responsibility of ensuring security of our territorial waters to help the country stabilize its economic base. The naval officers, along with sailors, have demonstrated patriotism, dutifulness, and strong moral in serving the nation. They have also nurtured the ideal of our liberation war equally.

President Ershad has befittingly commended the services of the Bangladesh Navy in this connection. He has described the Navy as the ever vigilant sentinels of our motherland, independence, and sovereignty.

Starting with a handful of naval personnel, we have today a modern naval force. The addition of the "BNS Osman" to the Bangladesh Navy will now go a long way in meeting its modern equipment. It is a missile-guided frigate built in the People's Republic of China. It can strike any target for 45-km distance. There are also two cannons for common use and four other anti-aircraft cannons. It can set up mines and destroy submarines with intersubmarine rockets. It is also equipped with chaff and decoy to divert missiles. The frigate has radar system for early warning fire control. It has satellite receiver for navigation and internal automatic telephone. The "BNS Osman" has two engines and its maximum speed is 25.5 nautical miles. The "BNS Osman" is a rather very valuable addition to our naval strength. It is a drive toward achieving self-sufficiency in modern naval strategy. As such, the frigate is a timely addition to our Navy. It will be worth mentioning here that our naval personnel were able to handle the missile-guided frigate from the China Sea to the Bay of Bengal. They have demonstrated high professional skill and set up a commendable example in this respect.

We acknowledge here with a deep sense of gratitude the Chinese support for modernization of our naval force. We are thankful to the government and the People's Republic of China for supplying the "BNS Osman" for the Bangladesh Navy. The frigate is indeed a symbol of friendship from China. It will help promote friendship and harmony with other countries when it will go on goodwill visits. The Chinese support and cooperation for our naval force will thus go a long way in building up the Bangladesh Navy and its capability for safeguarding the country's territorial waters and sovereignty.

The People's Republic of China is indeed a trusted and time-tested friend of Bangladesh. Sino-Bangladesh friendship and understanding have been [word indistinct] a positive factor for promotion of peace, stability, and cooperation in the region. It is gratifying to note here that our bilateral relationship with China has vastly expanded in diverse areas over the years. It has gained a steady strength in the (?course) of an ever-expanding interaction in different fields. It might be recalled here that the 5-day meeting of the Bangladesh-China joint economic commission was recently concluded in Beijing. It was the fifth meeting of the joint economic commission. The draft of the next bilateral trade agreement has been finalized at the meeting. The new agreement will be signed during the forthcoming visit of the Chinese prime minister to Bangladesh. It is particularly heartening to point out that China has agreed to sign a long-term agreement to purchase 100,000 to 200,000 tons of urea from Bangladesh on cash payment in the next 2 years during 1990-92 in order to further expand and balance the trade between the two countries. The agreement between the two sides to hold an investors' meeting in Dhaka in February-March 1990 [words indistinct] and attention. The meeting is expected to further explore and strengthen the areas of Sino-Bangladesh cooperation in small-scale industries through promotion of joint ventures.

Daily Assails Bhutto Over 'Stranded' Pakistanis

BK0811133689 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 28 Oct 89 p 5

[Editorial: "A Settled Issue"]

[Text] Until there is a clarification from Islamabad of the statement made in Kuala Lumpur by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto about the stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh, whose repatriation ought to be starting by early next year, it will be premature to suggest that the Government of Pakistan is dragging its feet on the matter. Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud has just disclosed that the Government has asked Islamabad for this much-needed clarification of Pakistan's position on what he has rightly described as a "settled" issue.

The statement made at the Malaysian capital by Ms Bhutto has undoubtedly created unnecessary "confusion" and considerable dismay among 2.5 lakh stranded Pakistanis here. In the first place, she referred to "severe strains on social fabric" which the return of these Pakistanis would create in her country, a hint that these unfortunate victims of history might not be so welcome in their own country. Then, she described them as "Biharis", as if deliberately refraining from calling them Pakistanis. The worst part of her statement contained the claim that the repatriation of 1.6 lakh "Biharis" to Pakistan in 1974 had closed the matter.

Those who had been following the recent development on the repatriation issue inside Pakistan realise by now that the issue has assumed some unfortunate political implications in Islamabad. The continuing ethnic violence in Sind Province has virtually ended the prospects of the stranded Pakistanis being settled in any part of

that province, especially in Karachi. But this does not mean that the doors of Pakistan are now shut for the 2.5 lakh people who are desperate to go home. The provincial administration of Punjab has come to their rescue, with the offer of rehabilitation in the province. Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, an arch adversary of Ms Bhutto, surely has his own political motives in making this move. The Pakistan Prime Minister may not quite like the generous gesture from Mr Sharif, seeing in it implications whose meanings may not be immediately clear to the outside world or even to the stranded Pakistanis. But she cannot—indeed should not—stand in the way of early implementation of the offer by the Punjab Chief Minister. That won't be fair to the stranded Pakistanis or to Bangladesh either.

If the Pakistan Prime Minister is worried about the long-term political implications of the offer from Mr Sharif, she would do better by taking note of the immediate fall-out of her Kuala Lumpur statement. The leader of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] Altaf Hussain has threatened to support a no-confidence motion against the Bhutto Government for the administration's failure to repatriate the stranded Pakistanis from Bangladesh. Within next couple of days, there may be other expressions of protest against the Government on this issue, and they may well be damaging to Ms Bhutto.

As far as Bangladesh is concerned, the bilateral accord on this issue reached between Dhaka and Islamabad cannot be subjected to any changes in the internal political scenario in Pakistan. If Islamabad makes even the slightest departure from this position, a position accepted by previous governments in Pakistan, it will be creating a serious credibility gap. The fact that the issue is also a humanitarian one will also make things all the more difficult for the Bhutto Government in the eyes of the international community.

India

Hindus Begin Building Temple on Disputed Site

100,000 Gather; Alert Issued

BK0811153689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1529 GMT 8 Nov 89

[text] New Delhi, Nov 8 (AFP)—Hindu militants Wednesday vowed to go ahead with plans to build a temple on a site claimed by Muslims in northern India as the country's ruling party issued an 11th hour call here for peace.

"The forces of communalism will not succeed tomorrow in making more children orphans, snatching husbands from wives and sons from mothers," said the appeal issued by Congress (I) Party spokesman Anand Sharma.

"We hope communal harmony will prevail and peace will not be disturbed."

The 11th-hour appeal was issued as reports from Ayodhya, some 700 kilometers (437 miles) east of here, said more than 100,000 Hindus from across India had descended on the town bearing consecrated bricks, determined to erect a temple Thursday to the Hindu god Ram in spite of a state court order.

Muslims in the town, in Uttar Pradesh state, vowed to stop the move.

A statewide red alert was declared Wednesday night in the adjacent state of Bihar where Muslim-Hindu violence connected to the temple-building has claimed more than 208 lives in the past two weeks, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

In the Bihar town of Sasaram, where at least eight people have died in the past two days in Hindu-Muslim violence excited by one of the Hindu brick processions, 100 persons were arrested and official sources said 113 bombs and a huge stock of explosives had been seized, PTI said.

The agency did not identify the religion of those arrested.

In the Uttar Pradesh state capital of Lucknow, home minister Buta Singh, entrusted by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to oversee the situation, issued a statement wednesday saying the militant Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) had agreed to abide by the court ruling.

The ruling by the Uttar Pradesh high court Tuesday said the shrine site was under dispute and that no building should take place.

However, at the same time and also in Lucknow VHP leader Mahani Avaidhyana was quoted as saying the Rama Temple foundation stone laying would go ahead.

His statement was echoed in Delhi by another Hindu militant group, the All India Shiv Sena, and in Ayodhya by VHP leaders.

Editorials in Indian national newspapers over the past week have warned that Ayodhya is a "powder keg" and voiced fears that November 9 could herald the worst Hindu-Muslim violence since the partition of the subcontinent 40 years ago, when thousands of Hindus and Muslims died.

Ceremony Held; Calm Reported

BK0911091689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] The shilanyas [foundation stone laying] ceremony for the proposed Sri Ram temple began at Ayodhya today amid tight security. The ceremony began shortly after 0900 this morning at the site which falls outside the disputed Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid [a disputed shrine between the Hindus and the Muslims] premises. Though the initial function was over in the morning, the ceremony will be concluded tomorrow with the placement of five bricks at the shilanyas site amid the chanting of mantras. After the introductory prayers, the

heads of three maths [Hindu monasteries] laid the foundation stone symbolically. The place was crowded with devotees who came to offer prayers on the occasion of Devadhyani Ekadashi [Hindu religious festival].

Our correspondents Takhur Naqvi and Kishore Sharma report from Ayodhya that the district administration sources said all measures have been taken to protect the disputed monument. Paramilitary personnel have been deployed around the shilanyas site. Heavy patrolling was on in the sensitive areas. Hundreds of media persons were present to get a glimpse of the ceremony. The situation in the town is stated to be peaceful and fully under control. Besides the shilanyas function, lakhs of devotees from all over the country today also participated in the panchkoti parikrama, 16 km circumambulation, the weeklong annual fair started last Tuesday with wider chaudakoti parikrama of 45 km. The fair will be concluded on Monday next with a holy dip in River Saryu on Kartik Purnima [full moon day of a Hindu lunar month].

Meanwhile, the left parties have organized a communal harmony rally at Faizabad. The speakers stressed the need for maintaining communal harmony. Congress-I leader Mr Kamlapathi Tripathi also visited Ayodhya, while several other political leaders, including CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] General Secretary Mr Rajeshwar Rao, and Syed Shahabuddin of the Babri Masjid coordination committee were also camping in Ayodhya.

Gandhi Rejects Colombo Charge on Tamil Attack

BK0911021089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1903 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 8 (AFP)—Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Wednesday [8 November] rejected Colombo's charge that New Delhi was responsible for major Tamil guerrilla attacks in eastern Sri Lanka that left 33 people dead, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Mr. Gandhi dismissed as "ridiculous" reported remarks by [Sri Lankan] Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne on Tuesday that New Delhi's "refusal" to deploy the Sri Lankan troops was responsible for the attacks by the dominant Tamil militant group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), on Sunday, PTI reported.

The LTTE on Sunday attacked camps run by the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) in the Ampara district towns of Thuirukkovil and Thambulvil, leaving 33 dead by official count.

Mr. Wijeratne, who is also junior defence minister, said the Tigers had attacked the camps to "prove a point" that the pro-Indian EPRLF was raising an illegal army to replace Indian troops who had withdrawn from the eastern Ampara region two weeks earlier.

The peace-keeping troops dispatched by India are deployed elsewhere in the Tamil-majority North and East of Sri Lanka. New Delhi and Colombo have reached an understanding under which India will withdraw all its troops from the island by the end of this year.

Mr. Gandhi, who was on a campaign tour to India's southern Tamil Nadu State, was further quoted as telling reporters that the withdrawal of Indian peace-keeping troops from Sri Lanka would be completed once the Tamils living in Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern Provinces were satisfied with the security arrangements there.

BJP Issues Manifesto in Advance of Elections

BK0811115689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1054 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 8 (AFP)—India's main right-wing political party unveiled a populist election manifesto here Wednesday, promising to fight administrative corruption and appealing to the overwhelmingly Hindu electorate.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, or Indian People's Party), which wields strong influence in the northern Hindu heartland, laid the blame at Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's feet for what it called a "multi-dimensional crisis" facing India.

The party, which has joined hands with the centrist opposition in a seat-sharing arrangement aimed at ousting Mr. Gandhi, said the crisis had arisen out of the "steady deterioration in public morality at the topmost leadership level."

It was a reference to allegations of corruption in a 1.3 billion U.S. dollar arms contract with Swedish firm Bofors which have dogged Mr. Gandhi and have been central in uniting the opposition against him.

BJP General Secretary Murli Manohar Joshi, who released the manifesto at a press conference here a fortnight before India goes to the polls, said his party, if elected, would seek to restore a "value-based political culture and establish a moral order."

"Cleansing of the public life will receive the BJP's top priority," he said, expressing the party's determination to fight corruption at all levels, particularly administrative and political corruption.

Specifically, the BJP promised to investigate all charges of corruption in overseas deals, including defence contracts, and punish whoever was found guilty.

The party's manifesto sought to temper its stridently pro-Hindu image by committing itself to respect all religions and not discriminate between Indians on grounds of language, caste or religion.

But in what was seen as an appeal to Hindu sentiments, it reiterated that the BJP would work for a total ban on

cow slaughter. It however made no mention of the fact that the cow is sacred for Hindus and instead stressed the animal's agricultural utility.

In the introduction to the manifesto, the BJP slammed the government for not allowing Hindus to build a temple at a northern Indian site disputed by Moslems. The dispute has sparked dozens of communal flare-ups across India.

It said the minorities commission, a watchdog body set up to ensure the rights of religious minorities are safeguarded, would be converted into a human rights commission that would cover all sectors of the population.

But in a concession to Moslems, it made no mention of its previous demand that special constitutional status to the Moslem-majority state of Jammu and Kashmir be scrapped.

"Justice for all, appeasement of none, that is our stand," said Mr. Joshi, whose party has in the past accused the government of striving to please the minorities such as Moslems.

The BJP manifesto promised to safeguard "national unity and national integration," one of Mr. Gandhi's favourite campaign themes, and offered sops for all sectors of the population.

On foreign policy, the party said it would pursue nonalignment, continue the process of normalisation of relations with China, with "due safeguards for Tibet," and improve ties with neighbours while maintaining "optimum defence preparedness."

Its economic policy stressed the role of agriculture and industrial self-reliance which would keep multinationals out of consumer industries.

Further on BJP's Manifesto

BK0811161489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party's [BJP] manifesto for this month's election promises social and economic justice for all, decentralization of power, and formation of smaller states with more powers to them. Pledging itself to what it calls positive secularism, the BJP claimed that it stands for justice for all and appeasement of none. The 37-page manifesto was released by the party general secretary, Dr Murli Manohar Joshi, in New Delhi today.

The party says it will fight corruption at all levels, provide free legal aid to the poor, and write off debts of farmers, agricultural laborers, and rural artisans. A total ban on cow slaughter, a national pension policy, appointment of a price commission, and optimum defense preparedness, including production of nuclear bombs and delivery systems, are among the other promises.

The manifesto alleges the government's failure on various fronts and accuses it of alleged wrong policies in the Northeast, Punjab, and Jammu and Kashmir. It wants a security belt to be created on India's border with Pakistan and identity cards to be issued to citizens in border states.

While supporting constitutional status for the panchayats [village councils] and other local institutions, the BJP claims it would not impose panchayats from above, nor will it use them to bypass the state government, as the manifesto puts it.

The party favors appointment of high court and supreme court judges on recommendations of an independent body and proposes to raise the retirement age of judges to 65. It proposes to appoint a commission to evolve a concensus for a uniform civil code and constitute an inter-state council to settle inter-state and center-state disputes. The party promises to grant statehood to Delhi, union territory status to Ladakh, and create separate states of Uttar Anchal in Uttar Pradesh and Van Anchal in Bihar.

On the economic front, the manifesto says 60 percent of the [development] plan money would be diverted to agriculture and rural development. Farmers will be given remunerative prices and farm workers minimum wages. In industry, it would keep multinationals out of the field of consumer manufacturing and make the public sector productive and profitable. The manifesto favors statutory ceilings on budget deficit and government borrowings. Employment guarantee scheme, pension for the aged poor, intensified efforts in the field of energy, and national level financial agency to provide credit to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are other items of the party's program.

On the foreign policy, the BJP wants normalization of relations with China with what it calls due safeguards for Tibet, early withdrawal of the PKF [peacekeeping force] from Sri Lanka, reestablishment of harmonious relations with Nepal, and settlement of all outstanding matters with Pakistan. It claims it will work to reimpart what it describes as dynamism to the Nonaligned Movement and says it stands for a policy committed to world peace and disarmament.

In defense matters, the manifesto claims that the party will ensure that the armed forces would not lack either equipment or the necessary wherewithals to fulfill their responsibilities. It promises to improve their service conditions.

The BJP promises to remove discrimination against women and says it would make registration of marriages compulsory. A national youth policy, free education for the 6 to 14 age-group, health care for every village, and supply of free milk to children in primary schools are among the other promises in the manifesto.

While broadly accepting the [government-appointed] Mandal Commission's report on reservations [of employment for weaker sections of society], the BJP wants preference to be given also on the basis of economic conditions. It wants to create what it calls a

national concensus for a population policy, make environment an integral part of education, and revive the prasar bharati bill [on broadcasting] of 1979 which the party claims sought to convert AIR [All India Radio] and Doordarshan [television] into an autonomous corporation.

Iran

Velayati Returns From Algeria, Comments on Visit

NC0911070989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Our foreign minister, Mr Velayati, returned from Algeria this morning and outlined his talks with Algerian officials in an interview with the Central News Unit correspondent. He made the following statement

[Begin Velayati recording] This visit took place at the invitation of Mr Ahmad Ghazali, the honorable Algerian foreign minister, and was intended to consolidate and expand relations between the two Muslim and fraternal nations of Iran and Algeria.

During this visit, we met with His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, the prime minister, the Parliament speaker, and the ministers of foreign affairs, petroleum, and religious affairs. Positive and constructive discussions were held on expanding relations, as well as on regional and international cooperation.

During the next few months the second Iranian-Algerian committee will meet in Tehran. Before this meeting, the preliminary committee will meet to prepare for the committee meeting. Also during the next few months, various delegations from both countries will meet.

Iran and Algeria have cooperated well and can do so in various fields other than the political field. The most concrete field, apart from the political field, in which the two countries cooperate and in which they will expand their cooperation, has been in the area of oil and pricing oil. They also cooperate as necessary within the OPEC framework. Since an OPEC summit in which foreign and petroleum ministers of member countries will participate is expected to be held in the near future—something which both Iran and Algeria consider positive—we think that in the coming year we will possibly witness a serious and positive development in this field to the benefit of all OPEC members.

The views of Iran and of Algeria during the various and long talks that we held with the Algerian officials centered on important regional issues such as the talks on [Resolution] 598 and the problems of Lebanon, Palestine, and Afghanistan, as well as on bilateral cooperation within the Islamic Conference Organization, the Nonaligned Movement, and the United Nations. In view of the fact that Algeria is not one of the UN Security Council's permanent members, the necessary grounds for more cooperation in the Security Council were prepared. [end recording]

Daily Questions U.S. 'Moves' on Frozen Assets

LD0911105689 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—The U.S. is still quite short on displaying enough moves to convince Iran of genuine goodwill, said an editorial in the English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' Thursday.

The daily was referring to the latest call by the U.S. President George Bush on Tuesday subsequent to a decision by the U.S. to return dlrs. 568 million of Iranian frozen assets.

"It is true that Iran has assured the U.S. on several occasions that the Islamic Republic will use its good offices with Islamic groups in Lebanon to do all it can to help free the hostages provided the U.S. shows genuine goodwill," said the paper adding "but surely there appears to be little sign of this yet."

TEHRAN TIMES further referred to the U.S. using its veto right in the U.N. Security Council opposing the establishment of a U.N. inquiry commission on the extortions of Palestinians by Israel in the occupied territories in the guise of collecting taxes.

"Islamic Iran is deeply concerned about the fate of Muslims in Palestine, in Lebanon and wherever it be," it stressed.

"Iran believes that the U.S. should not use its power to help those who suppress Muslims and their rights," the paper concluded.

'French Hypocrisy' Seen in Scarf-Wearing Issue

LD0811212389 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—In yet another provocation against the Muslims, teachers of a school in northern France have threatened to boycott classes if girl students wear scarves in that school.

The ultimatum of the teachers comes against the express word of the French interior minister who has said that there were no restrictions against scholgirls wishing to attend classes wearing scarves.

The discrepancy on whether or not girl students should be allowed to wear scarves started at a school in north France sometime ago, but found its way into other schools in southern France. Schoolgirls in France have decided to boycott classes if school officials bar entry of their scarf-wearing Muslim colleagues. They say the restriction imposed against scarves contrasts with the very text of the French Constitution which recognizes the civil liberties of the masses.

Muslims in France who make [up] the second largest religious group maintain that the scandal over scarf-wearing girl students is a by-product of the struggle for power between the various political groups in that country.

Officially French President Francois Mitterrand has not yet voiced a clear personal stand in relation with the issue. France's Muslim citizens have called on him to end his indifference and instead adopt a clear stand in that relation.

The issue also affected Belgium last week, and it seems that certain elements are trying to capitalize on the scarf as a propaganda scheme and public campaign against Muslims in Europe.

The French minister of education said recently that he cannot tolerate 'religious fanaticism' in his country, whereas Muslims in France argue that the decision to wear scarf is a token of the conscience of Muslim women and girls and a symbol of their cultural identity.

To back their illogical stand, the French officials cite a circular issued way back in 1947 forbidding students to display any religious or political signs at schools.

But the outdated circular seems applicable only where Muslim students are concerned, and in what could be considered the height of French hypocrisy, throughout its last four decades the circular has not prevented Christian schoolboys and girls and even teachers from wearing crosses, or Jewish students from donning the skull caps.

The French government would do far better if it adopted a policy of conciliation with Muslims and thereby allowed them to forget France's dark colonialistic record in territories abroad.

France 'Should Pay' for Broken Promises

PM0811165589 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Sep 89 p 3

[Editorial by Seyyed Mas'ud Jazayeri: "France: Forgotten Promises"]

[Text] A new round of diplomacy is under way between Tehran and Paris, now that the West's futile and noisy objections to the imam's decree on the heresy of Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses," and the necessity of his death have subsided. There is, of course, no doubt that the West insisted on the book's publication and that this was a pre-planned Western action to achieve goals which there is no time to discuss now.

Some analysts believe that a UN meeting between our country's foreign minister and his French counterpart will result in discussions aimed at resolving the issues that exist between the two countries. This is why they have given special importance to this meeting, especially as the French no longer have any excuses for stressing their old position.

The truth of the matter is that a glance at the history of relations between the two countries indicates that there has rarely been a case in which Iran started the tension. On the other hand, there are plenty of examples of how the West, and of course France, tried to break the revolution and so prevented the expansion of peaceful relations; this is not easy to forgive. If we pay attention here to the roots of these hostilities, the problem remains that during a period where ties are being expanded, there is the possibility that the French will suddenly cause instability in the ties, as in the past, by breaking contracts. This is why one cannot easily trust French diplomacy. It is also one reason why there must be adequate guarantees, to lessen as much as possible any negative results that may occur as a consequence of French actions.

The Socialists in power in France have rarely concealed their hostility to the pure Islam of the prophet. They have, at least once, clearly broken their promise and their contract.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which has always been a country keen to avoid tension, tried in the previous round to improve relations to a desirable level. The French—if they know the meaning of gratitude—must never forget Iran's efforts to free French hostages in Lebanon. Despite this, and despite the promise to pay back a loan granted by Iran to the French company Eurodif and release the prisoner Anis Naqqash from French dungeons, the Socialists soon forgot all their promises once the elections finished in their favor.

The disgraceful denial by the ruling French regime could be repeated at any time because on the one hand, there are internal differences between the various factions in that country, and on the other, France is a country that comes within Washington's policymaking framework. All this has caused an unpleasant situation whereby French policies cannot be trusted. Uncoordinated policies can be clearly seen coming from Paris, especially at a time when the French have been the ones to take the first step toward solving bilateral issues.

The French mass media cleverly and wickedly blamed Iran for the French airliner crash at a time when the terms set out by the Islamic Republic remain the same. The terms were the repayment of the loan in full, plus interest, and an insistence that the French listen to the Lebanese people's demands. The media attitude in France is nothing but a ploy to put pressure on Tehran, in order to gain bonus points in the new round of talks between officials from the two nations.

Without any legal excuse, France has kept hundreds of millions of dollars of Iran's money. It is trying to use this to exert influence on Tehran in political equations, like a lever. This is against all international laws. The French refusal to pay back this money, especially in the present time of reconstruction, will never be forgotten. Of course, Westerners think that by blocking Iran's funds they will also block any reconstruction. Even if that is the

case, it is something that must be brought under the scrutiny of our officials in charge of foreign policy. The people expect that one day France should pay for these hostile actions.

Apart from all this, there are some who believe that the French see Iran's financial needs as the best route to controlling Iran's policies. This is why they feel that delaying repayment of the loan is a positive step toward Western policies aimed at weakening the Islamic Republic. This is why it is thought that unless Paris is squeezed, it will not undertake to pay back what is rightfully the property of our people.

The French Government drew a line right through all its promises once its hostages were freed from Lebanon. It did not pay the slightest attention to the human and financial promises made by both the previous and the present officials as a sign of gratitude to Tehran's efforts toward solving French problems in Lebanon—efforts which were made because of Iran's Islamic nature.

Experience in the past few years has shown that our officials in charge of foreign policy must eschew any act of reciprocity until the Westerners have actually done what they promise to do. The announcement that no progress has been made in solving the financial difficulties between France and Iran is a loophole through which Paris is trying to waste time and, on an international level, to put the Islamic Republic of Iran in a defensive position.

Editorial on Improving Relations With France

NC0311174489 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Iranian-French Ties Going Upswing"]

[Text] At the end of a Paris tour by Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs, Mahmud Va'ezi, the French Foreign Ministry announced yesterday that the two capitals will resume their talks in Tehran next month.

Before his departure, Va'ezi attended conference sponsored by the host country's diplomatic publications union.

Inspite of some not-too-subtle attempts on the part of a few reporters who were trying to corner the Iranian official in order to trip him up, Va'ezi managed to specify clearly the Iranian policies and defended them in a most logical way.

One thorny question concerned the release of Anis Naqqash, a man serving a jail term in France on charges of making attempts on the life of former Iranian prime minister Shahpur Bakhtiar who fled to Paris in 1979. Va'ezi said that the issue of Naqqash could in no way be a snag in the way of improvements in relations between the two countries.

For a fact it is only logical not to delay significant issues by unnecessary aggrandizement of issues whose solution depends on the time factor. Resumption of friendly ties between Paris and Tehran should be seen as part and parcel of strategical foreign policy lines of the two countries and as such it should not be left to the solution of issues of much less significance.

Meanwhile the French Education Minister Lionel Jospin has agreed to the conditional use of Islamic scarves by Muslim female students in French schools. The minister's move is a positive one no doubt. Besides, a nation that prides itself on being a "cradle of democracy" should certainly show the highest degree of tolerance and respect for beliefs of people, especially when it comes to matters of religion. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran, while expressing full interest in the fate of the Muslims anywhere across the globe, also staunchly belives in non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries as a principle in foreign relations.

Being an Islamic Repubic, Iran is dutybound to see to it that the rights of Muslims are observed and they enjoy full freedom to practise their religion.

By and large Iran ha always tried to establish fruitful and friendly relations with non-hostile nations within the framework of established principles.

Majlis Questions Proposed Pardon for Cooper

PM0811160789 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 28 Sep 89 p 3

[Report on 27 September Majlis session]

[Excerpts] An open session of the Majlis was held yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi. The session discussed the details for medical examinations for those eligible for military service and a bill dealing with teachers, physicians, and paramedics during their military service. During the second session of the day, the Majlis discussed a bill dealing with judicial issues affecting Majlis deputies, which was passed. A motion to amend Subsection 15 of Footnote 29 of the 1368 [1989] budget was rejected.

At the end of the session a letter was handed to the Majlis signed by 110 deputies asking the minister of justice to give details of a meeting held between the wife [as published] of British spy Roger Cooper and the head of the Judiciary, during which the head of the Judiciary discussed the possibility of the spy's being pardoned. [passage omitted]

A preliminary session was held on amending Subsection 15 of Footnote 29 of the 1368 budget as well as Note 6 of Part 9 of the same bill. 'Ali Aqa Mohammadi, spokesman for the Majlis Plan and Budget committee, gave some details on the bill. He said: This bill has been discussed in various sessions with those who proposed the plan and representatives from the government. It was approved during the 18 June 1989 session, following

some amendments. This plan deals with Subsection 15 of Footnote 29 of the budget bill. The brothers and sisters know that in this budget we made a provision imposing a ceiling of $1.5 billion on project funds, on the condition that any foreign party will guarantee it will finish the factory in question and get it functioning. The payment for the project would then start 6 months after the start of the factory's operation, and there would be a ceiling of $200 million a year for repaying the money owed.

Since the plan had no opposition it was then put to a general vote, but it was rejected.

The last subject on the Majlis agenda yesterday was the second discussion of a law dealing with judicial matters affecting Majlis deputies Seyyed Mohammad Asqari, spokesman for the Majlis Judicial Committee, gave some details on the proposal. He said: This bill was discussed during a session held on 18 June 1989 in the presence of its proposers, and was amended and approved. Then further proposals were made with regard to the bill. Movahedi Savoji proposed some amendments to and deletions from in the bill and its footnotes. These were discussed and later rejected.

The bill was then read to the Majlis, put to the vote, and passed in its final form.

The bill itself states that accusations against Majlis deputies, before and after their election to the Majlis, can be investigated only by an authorized court in Tehran. Any kind of warning, warrant, or arrest order against them can only be issued through the Majlis itself.

Footnote 1: The above-mentioned courts cannot delegate to any judicial or law enforcement authority the right to investigate charges brought against Majlis deputies. [passage omitted]

At the end of the Majlis session yesterday a letter signed by 110 deputies was submitted to the speaker of the Majlis, dealing with the meeting held between the head of the Judiciary and the wife [as published] of British spy Roger Cooper and the subject of his pardon. These were in the shape of questions to the justice minister:

To the esteemed speaker of the Islamic Majlis:

We have learned through the mass media that the esteemed head of the Judiciary has met with the wife of the criminal British spy Roger Cooper. During this meeting he expressed the hope that the spy and traitor to the Iranian people would be freed from an Iranian prison following a pardon from the leader.

In accordance with Article 88 of the Constitution, the justice minister is hereby invited to appear at the Majlis at the earliest possible time to obtain details about the issue from the head of the Judiciary and to report to the Majlis on the following:

1. What was the reason behind the highest judicial authority's meeting with the relative of a person who has been charged with espionage and treason against Islam and the revolution?
2. What was the reason behind the fact that the head of the Judiciary took the first step in mentioning the issue of a pardon for the spy?
3. Since the meeting had political implications, was it first coordinated with the executive or not? [passage omitted]

Editorial Deplores 'Kindness' to British 'Spy'

PM0811153189 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 Sep 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Wishing for a Pardon for Cooper!"]

[Text] The unbelievable news has been announced of a meeting between Mrs Lily Cooper, a relative of Roger Cooper, and the head of the Judiciary. Stranger than this is that during this meeting the hope was expressed that Cooper would be released.

The excuse that apparently exists for this meeting is the issue of compassion in Islam for prisoners and criminals. The question that remains is this: Does this compassion also extend to spies, especially an experienced one like Roger Cooper who was spying for the fascist regime in Britain? Does this compassion not give the U.S. and other Western espionage agencies a golden opportunity to carry on with their activities with an easy mind? Is giving permission to a member of the Cooper family to have a meeting with the head of the judicial system adequate reciprocation for all the torture meted out by British prison warders to Kurosh Fuladi during the 10 years that he was in jail there?

On what basis and for what reason is all this kindness shown to Cooper? Kindness that started with praise for him from the TEHRAN TIMES and continued with a meeting between his family member and the head of the judiciary. Perhaps there is a "reason" for all this of which the mass media are unaware. If that is the case, then we would like to ask all the aware people, especially our colleagues at the TEHRAN TIMES, to come out immediately and tell us what this "reason" could be. Perhaps then the rest of us could try to achieve the same end. Otherwise, why should this damaging trend continue?

Daily Urges Stand Against Turkish 'Propaganda'

LD0811122589 Tehran IRNA in English 1130 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—The Persian daily 'ABRAR' Wednesday called for a firm stand vis-a-vis Turkish anti-Iran propaganda.

The paper's editorial was commenting on recent statement by the newly-elected Turkish President Turgut Ozal who has said that the Islamic Republic of Iran

should establish good-neighbourly relations not only with Turkey but with other Western countries as well.

The morning daily said, "in diplomatic tradition, such a statement is considered interference in internal affairs of another country."

It voiced the belief that such words together with what is printed in Turkish press on Iran are indicative of the fact that "Turkish policy towards Iran has remained unchanged although generals have been removed from power."

A well formulated and firm stand will make the Turkish authorities and press avoid misusing the good-will displayed by Iran towards its neighbours, it said.

"Election of Ozal to presidency may alter Turkey's relations with the Western Europe, but will not bring about a radical change in military-political structure of the country."

It voiced the belief "Turkish generals will continue to be used as a lever to counter any move aimed at bringing Turkey out of Western domination and any attempt to close down American military bases."

"The most significant factor behind replacing General Kenan Evren by Ozal, accomplished with American consent, is Turkey's willingness to join the European Economic Community (EEC)," it added. Another reason behind Ozal's presidency is to quell the political uproar in the country caused by military rule, said ABRAR.

The editorial said that many economic problems facing Ozal may overshadow his zeal to join EEC as Turkey has a long way to go before becoming a full EEC member.

U.S. Veto of UN Resolution on Israel Assailed

LD0811130789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1101 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Once again the United States has vetoed a UN Security Council resolution on the Zionist regime's suppression of the people of the occupied Palestine. It is the third time in the past 11 months that the U.S. Government has vetoed the Security Council's resolutions on Palestine. The recent resolution had been submitted to the Security Council by the Government of Kuwait on behalf of the Arab member states of the United Nations; and it also won the support of the nonaligned countries. The resolution had asked for a condemnation of the suppressive policies of the Israeli regime in the occupied areas, particularly the siege of residential areas.

During the past few weeks, the occupying regime has laid siege to the town Bayt Sahur and has declared it a forbidden military zone. The inhabitants of this township, two thirds of whom are Christian Palestinians, had refused to pay taxes to the Zionist regime. Previously, the internal leaders of the uprising of the Muslim people of Palestine had asked the people not to pay any taxes to the occupiers. Several weeks ago, Israeli troops entered Bayt Sahur township and confiscated the assets of those who had refused to pay taxes. Palestinian sources say that the confiscated assets are worth between $2 to $3 billion. The occupying regime even refused to grant a permit to several Christian clergymen to visit the township. Meanwhile, the regime has increased its suppressive measures.

Palestinian sources stress that Bayt Sahur is an example of revolt among the civilians in their rejection of the alien occupiers. Nevertheless, the U.S. Government has easily vetoed the Security Council resolution, arguing that it lacks balance. It is not clear whether the U.S. Government expects that the oppressed people of Palestine should also be condemned for defending themselves by throwing stones at the occupiers? Observers believe that along with this general strategy, in which the U.S. Government is never prepared to weaken the position of Israel's regime in international forums, at the present stage Bush intends to implement his plan to hold elections in the occupied territories. He tries to make certain, therefore, that the Security Council's ties with Israel are not strained, even by a toothless resolution.

The vetoing of the Security Council resolution, on the other hand, demonstrates that the opening of talks between some Palestinian organization and the U.S. Government has had no effect on the United States support for the suppressive Zionist regime; moreover, Washington will never undermine its ties with the occupying regime for some Arabic or Palestinian interests.

Majlis Official Bayat Addresses Khomeyni Seminar

LD0811145189 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—The principal ideological patterns offered by the founder of the Islamic Republic should form the basis of Iran's foreign policy, said vice-speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) Hoj. Bayat at the second day of the 2-day seminar on the 'Thoughts of Imam Khomeyni' that ended work last night.

He said the late leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni, had enjoined public officials to lay emphasis first on the will of the masses, to support the oppressed masses throughout the world, to stand firmly on positions in all encounters with the foreign powers, and to adopt a foreign policy ideologically and totally independent of both of the power blocks.

'Diplomacy in its conventional sense cannot ensure the fullfillment of the imam's religious, social and political doctrines,' said the hojjat ol-eslam.

He said the aspirations of the imam as he put forward to the Iranian people are far too dynamic to be achieved by adhering to diplomacy in its Western sense.

'The architects of Iran's foreign policy should not await a 'green light' by any foreign power, nor should they enter into friendship pacts with either of the superpowers, but they should covenant themselves to cherish the values of the Islamic revolution,' added Bayat.

Majlis deputy Mo'zaffarinejad [name as received] as another speaker at the seminar said some tend to suggest that the U.S. has abandoned its previous mentality in relation with Iran which, he said, is not at all true. He recalled a frequently quoted statement by Imam Khomeyni to the effect that the relation between the United States and Iran was like that between a wolf and a sheep: a type of relationship in which one party always falls prey to the other and exists only to be devoured by the other. The MP [member of parliament] said no one person with commonsense would recommend such fashion of relations with any foreign power.

Yazdi Receives Afghan Coalition Council Members

LD0811121189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Members of the eight-party coalition council of Afghan Muslim mojahedin yesterday met with head of the Judiciary Yazdi. During the meeting, the coalition spokesman Mohaqqeq presented a report on the Afghan Muslim mojahedin and the Afghan refugees.

The head of the judiciary spoke about the coordinated actions taking place in Iran at present with regard to the livelihood of the Afghan refugees and the assistance being provided for them. He stressed the need for the high-ranking clergy to concentrate on the people's affairs, particularly their legal affairs.

Karrubi Discusses Relations With ROK Envoy

LD0611120689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] According to a Central News Unit Report, the South Korean ambassador met and conferred today with Majlis Speaker Karrubi. Mr Karrubi stressed the need for the expansion of ties between Iran and South Korea. The Majlis speaker also referred to the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy, and added: Iran wishes to have ties with countries on the basis of mutual respect.

The South Korean ambassador then conveyed the wish of his country's parliamentary speaker to travel to Iran, and to establish a parliamentary friendship group between the two countries. Mr Karrubi invited the South Korean parliamentary speaker to visit Iran.

Defense Minister Addresses Industry Merger Talks

LD0811134289 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—A meeting to harmonize methods of merging the country's defence industries was held here Tuesday, attended by minister of defence and the Armed Forces logistics Akbar Torkan and a number of other officials.

Addressing the gathering, Torkan said the volume of production the Defence Industries Organization before being merged with the self-sufficiency unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, was ten times more than the pre-revolution one. He said the production of the IRGC's self-sufficiency unit during post-revolution era was comparable to that of the Defence Industries Organization.

The minister expressed hope that the two organizations would be merged into one 'dynamic and powerful' establishment. 'Transfer of technology is the basis of our work and at present we have several contracts for expansion of defence industries and all foreign purchases are serving this purpose,' he added.

Mr. Tavallaei [name as received], managing director of the Defence Industries Organization who was present at the meeting, said 'some 212 new military devices have been produced domestically since the victory of the Islamic Revolution (in 1979).' He also said that the defence industries accounted for most investments made inside the country.

* Former Prime Minister's Call to Expatriates

90OI0037A London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Oct 89 p 1

[Report on interview with former prime minister 'Ali Amini; date, place not given]

[Text] Change must be brought about within the country. The more frequently skilled and educated people come into the country, the more quickly political change will occur within the country to bring about a government acceptable to the people. The point is that Iran must remain a place for all Iranians.

In a brief interview with KEYHAN, Dr 'Ali Amini stressed that for him the matter of Iranians returning to Iran is not a question of Iranians cooperating with Hashemi-Rafsanjani or anyone else at the head of the Islamic government. The basic problem is to change the current state of disorder to a stable and acceptable one for both Iranians and foreigners. Dr Amini said: This stable condition must be brought about both so that Iranians can return to Iran with peace of mind, live in their own country, and take on the country's reconstruction, and so that foreigners can be present and assist in the reconstruction of Iran by making loans.

Dr Amini stressed that Hashemi-Rafsanjani or people like him are not considered an alternative for the future of Iran, but presently the more pressure is brought to bear on hashemi-Rafsanjani, the more individuals and hard-line groups will be able to disrupt his work and

delay the establishment of a stable and normal situation, which is at odds with the continuation of the government.

Dr 'Ali Amini, who 2 weeks ago in an interview with JAM-E JAM television in Los Angeles had expressed support for a return of Iranians to Iran to take part in rebuilding the country, in his interview with KEYHAN said: "I neither have contact with Hashemi-Rafsanjani nor have I ever seen him. After all these years of struggle I have no intention of collaborating with the theologians, and what I have to say is actually not concerned either with Hashemi-Rafsanjani or anyone else. What I am saying is that we must not do fruitless and undisciplined work. It does no good to stay abroad and watch and issue statements. Dr Amini added: From the beginning, I have said that anything aimed at changing the conditions must take place within the country. Even if we work outside the country, we must have our chief base within the country.

The former prime minister: The return of Iranians to the country can change the conditions along positive lines, and gradually make changes that will restore order. Dr Amini stressed that his aim is not to align Iranians with the Islamic government and get them to serve the regime. However, without a return to Iran and the creation of a base within the country, the struggle against the regime will not bear fruit easily. If Iranians return and establish the necessary cells for quiet and subdued struggle against the regime, the regime in power will gradually consume itself and the conditions will move towards a replacement government acceptable to the public.

It is Dr Amini's view that a large group of Iranians are suffering acutely because they are abroad, far from their native country, and they want to return to Iran.

Dr 'Ali Amini stressed the point that despite the necessity to return to Iran, the security required for their return must be established within the country, and they must know that there will be no problems for them when they return. There must be a specific authority to whom they can appeal with their problems. He stressed: A number of people have consulted with me concerning returning to Iran, and I have given them my views, but I have explained that until some assurance is given one cannot do this with full peace of mind, although a number of people have gone there and they have not bothered them.

Concerning Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Dr Amini said: Some of what he says is actually reasonable, but if he does not act on it now that is another matter.

ETTELA'AT Commentary on Repatriation

NC0311132189 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 25 Oct 89 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "In the Margin of Calling on Iranian Experts Abroad"]

[Text] Recently, more attention has been focused on our compatriots living abroad. Iranians left their homes, jobs, culture, and land to go abroad out of various motives. A large number of them oppose neither Islam, nor the revolution, nor the country's development and progress. Undoubtedly, their return has never been forbidden in any way. However, favorable conditions can be created in order to encourage these Iranians to return.

As an example, steps should be taken so that they may:
A. Bring their household goods into the country without being charged taxes or duty;
B. Bring as much foreign exchange as they want into the country and open a foreign exchange account in the banks;
C. Bring the car that they want into the country; and
D. Have the obstacles facing their employment removed.

In this way we will witness a huge investment of expert forces which will be more valuable than the 10 tonnes of gold which was not gold but copper after all [reference to recent report of confiscation of 10 tonnes of gold, later said to be copper, not gold].

These people can turn the rich soil of this country into gold with their work. The identity of these people as Iranian Muslims and even as Iranians is being lost in America, Europe, and other places. The gold in them is being turned into ashes by the coldness of the pitiless and heartless Western society. These people need affection more than ever before.

Mutual Trust Between Officials, People Urged

NC0211134189 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 24 Oct 89 pp 1, 12

[Editorial by Habibollah 'Askar-Owladi: "People's Trust of the Officials and the Officials' Trust of the People"]

[Excerpts] The dear leader of the revolution stressed three axes in his latest sermons: the presence of a spirit of optimism toward the future, which we discussed earlier; the presence of a feeling of trust in the country's officials, which we will discuss here; and the perpetuation of the revolutionary spirit, which, God willing, we hope to enlarge upon in subsequent issues.

Concerning trust in the country's officials, there is no doubt that the greatest support and resource of the country's echelons and officials is the people's confidence in them. If this is lost, the people will become estranged from the officials. They will go their separate ways, and thus the path of the people will lead to a confrontation with the authorities, and the path of the officials will be to resort to force. [passage omitted]

Therefore, when we discuss the subject of the people's trust in the officials and authorities, which has been termed the greatest and most valuable asset, it becomes obvious that the enemy will mobilize all its resources and efforts so that governments may be deprived of this greatest of assets. The people's confidence will thus be

gradually eroded and the people alienated from the officials. In such circumstances, governments are more inclined to affiliate themselves with the circle of arrogance and to pour the people's wealth and resources into the pockets of these powers, so that with this plunder and pillage they can extend their bestial lives by a few more days.

On the other hand, if the people's trust in the government and the officials is undermined, the people themselves stand to suffer immense losses. The least of these would be the infiltration of the enemy into their ranks and the pilfering and pillaging of their interests and resources. Therefore, when the leader of the revolution assures the people that their officials are righteous and suitable and are their true servants, the purpose is to uphold the people's unity with the government and to block the enemy attempt to create a rift between the people and the government, so that infiltration by the enemy may be foiled.

However, it is a great source of pride for the government officials that the leader has so much confidence in them. Therefore, swift and persistent action and efforts are necessary so that this confidence may in fact reflect the faith of the people as well and continue to grow daily. In this era of reconstruction and construction in particular, more attention than ever should be paid to this.

Naturally, those in charge are aware that the majority of the problems are remnants of the idolatrous period [the shah's era], the roots of which could not be burnt out by the administration because of the problems connected with the imposed war. [passage omitted].

The elimination of the difficulties is not at all difficult, especially as the officials are in favor of utilizing the services of the heroic and self-sacrificing people themselves for surmounting these difficulties. Thus, the more confidence the officials display in the people, the greater increase they will see in the people's faith in them. The more they appeal to the people for assistance, the more eager the people's response and readiness will be. [passage omitted].

ETTELA'AT Editorial Stresses Need for Unity

NC0311195989 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 25 Oct 89 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "It Is a Pity If..."]

[Text] "The foundation of Islam is based on two pillars: the word of unity and the unity of word."

As we heard the honorable leader of the revolution say in his Tehran Friday prayer sermons, our society needs effective unity and harmony more today than ever before. It would be a mistake if problems and solutions are propounded without unity of ranks and with discord. Of course, it is sometimes difficult to draw the exact line here.

This unity and harmony existed when officials were guided by the imam. Today his lofty spirit is aware of whatever is going on, and the continuation of his path by someone who was taught by him guides us in our way and efforts. Our society definitely needs cooperation between the people and the officials more today than ever before.

This was necessary even when the father was still among his children. Now that the father is no longer here, his children should heed this lofty divine and social necessity in all their acts and deeds more than ever before.

Ten years have passed since the revolution. We are not the same as we were in the years 1357 and 1358 [1978 and 1979] when we did not have a sufficient reservoir of experience. We also have the experience of the world before us. The experience of the East and the experience of the West are both good lessons. And our domestic experience too has been useful and informative.

Therefore, what need is there today for half-baked thoughts and words? Today, after 10 years of experience gained from the abundant use of Imam Khomeyni's teachings and from his works and deeds, neither of the two famous and existing factions in the country are actually the factions that they used to be. Each faction, each group, and each individual has, to an extent, matured and become more alert, gained experience, and, on the whole, is better adjusted. Actually, Imam Khomeyni left us at a time when this adjustment among the officials and those in charge had been achieved. All this should be considered as the fruit of the guidance of that great leader.

Confrontation with the Judiciary, Executive, and administrative branches or with one official or another is wrong. Confronting one newspaper or another, one lawyer or minister, one ministry or another is today more harmful than ever before. Criticism and study do not mean confrontation. Mutual respect; refraining from accusations, slander, and false and baseless allegations; good and fraternal criticism; using better, more effective, and more useful methods; refraining from harmful, useless, and repeated recollections of the past, and so on are some of the special characteristics of good-willed criticism.

Let us allow varying thoughts and opinions to exist. Let us allow this or that Islamic and revolutionary group which was endorsed by the imam and the leader of the revolution to remain active. Let us allow the various newspapers to be active, despite the existence of differing views and tastes. None of this should harm unity and, God forbid, turn fraternity into discord. Let us criticize the legislative, administrative, and executive systems and their heads. Let us criticize one newspaper or another. But has God not set a limit to criticism, accusations, and quarrels in his creation?

It is a pity if today we open our eyes and see that we have not cooperated or acted in unity and fraternity and that the dear and noble people of Iran, who are not involved

in the conflicts, continue to be entangled in difficult social problems and are trying to lead a life filled with economic problems, while some of us, instead of solving the problems of society, are involved in one conflict or another. It is a pity if....

Paper Warns of Cultural Plots Against Revolution

LD0411235389 Tehran IRNA in English 1734 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—A Persian daily today warned against cultural conspiracies of global arrogance against the Islamic revolution, and urged the young generation to firmly resist such deceptions.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI's editorial, cautioned that any negligence in this regard would cause irreparable damages, and told the hope of the revolution to frustrate such plots, even at the cost economic hardships.

"To keep flying the flag of struggle against oppression needs good planning by officials," it said on the occassion of the 10th anniversary of the fall of the U.S. spy den in Tehran, an event celebrated every year as the "national day of resistance against global arrogance."

The morning daily added that Iranian Muslims have proven their mettle against the world oppressors, and have come out with flying colours.

"The West especially the world-devourer U.S. should know that the Iranian people will continue the late imam's path under the leadership of Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i until the rooting out of oppression from the planet," it concluded.

Agriculture Minister on Fixed Rates of Exchange

LD0711123289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Agriculture Minister Vahaji, in an interview with the Central News Unit reporter in Mashhad, said that to secure production and activate the wheels of industry, the fixed rate of competitive foreign exchange currency will soon be announced by the government. Regarding the state of basic goods needed by the people, he said: Presently, 80 ships carrying basic goods needed by the masses are being unloaded, and 70-80 percent of the loads consist of products such as rice, wheat, corn, barley, chemical fertilizers, meat, sugar, and tea. Mr Vahaji also announced the Agriculture Ministry is considering [issuing] some special coupons to meet the needs of the people. [The details] will be announced at different intervals.

ETTELA'AT Supports President's Economic Plan

LD3010151789 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—In a commentary Monday the Persian daily ETTELA'AT said President Hashemi-Rafsanjani is launching a successful economic program for making good on a stalled centralistic economy. It said the president has decided that the private sector should be given a little more elbow room to operate in an economic system based mainly on a balanced relation between supply and demand.

The daily said Hoj. Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's economic policy has a "middle-of-the-road character," but all the same reminded that it is markedly 'far' and distinct from the policies pursued by his predecessors. It said the president's economic policy tends to be more "realistic," and exploiting the various market mechanisms it aims at leading the national economy towards decentralization.

ETTELA'AT said although apparently it is now somewhat premature for passing final verdicts but Hashemi-Rafsanjani seems to have been equally successful in the area of politics, both at the international and national levels.

However, since national economy has been the number one issue during the past few months it has continuously overshadowed the foreign policies of the Islamic Republic, added the daily.

The commentary concluded by saying, "The performance of the new cabinet over the past two months demonstrates the hindrances ahead as well as its capacity to maneuver away from those problems. It proves that Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's 'action cabinet' is able to meet the hardships and problems as they are."

Editorial Assails 'Adverse Propaganda' on Economy

NC0811160789 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 30 Oct 89 pp 1, 9

[Editorial: "Economic Problems and Complications Caused by False Propaganda"]

[Excerpts] Officials of the executive branch and the decisionmaking centers in the country have embarked on extensive efforts to solve economic problems by adopting programs to control inflation, reinvigorate the economy, and create conditions conducive to the country's reconstruction.

One of the axes around which the activities of the government and the decisionmaking centers revolves is the control of foreign exchange rates. These are gradually being reduced by the introduction of a preferential rate. [passage omitted]

The revolution has entered the 2d decade of its auspicious life, which officials have termed the "decade of reconstruction." The objectives of reinvigorating the economy and achieving a certain rate of economic growth seem sensible. We should not forget, however, that everything should be defined within the infrastructure of the fundamental principles of the revolution and its loftier goals and that all programs and projects must fall within these parameters. [passage omitted]

We must look at the future along these lines. If we desire economic reconstruction and prosperity, we must view all solutions to our economic problems and all remedial measures from the perspective of our fundamental ideals and aspirations. It should not be forgotten for even a moment that our revolution is and always will be a great cultural revolution. We must never tackle daily problems without considering the basic principles of the revolution. [passage omitted]

Questions about the responsibilities of officials have arisen. Officials of the executive branch as well as decisionmaking centers all have specific responsibilities which they fulfill to the best of their ability and we hope they are successful.

What is the responsibility of the press and the media in this context? We should stop here and think for a moment. Ignoring economic phenomena is wrong and can even be interpreted as indifference to the extensive efforts made by the government and the decisionmaking centers in grappling with the country's economic woes.

However, is it right to present the country's problems in such a way that a false atmosphere is created and the situation is exaggerated? Is the problem of shortages of onions and potatoes the greatest problem facing the country at present? Is the issue of foreign exchange rates the sole problem in the economic field facing the country today? [passage omitted]

No one denies the usefulness of the media in presenting or unraveling problems. It is imperative, however, that they refrain from all kinds of unprincipled criticism if the fundamental work undertaken in the economic field is to succeed.

The government and the decisionmaking centers require the support of the media while they are involved in implementing their various principled programs. This support should be effective, sober, and logical so that it does not evolve into adverse propaganda with deleterious consequences.

The government has just begun its task and should be given all possible support so that it can build and maintain a constructive atmosphere. [passage omitted]

KEYHAN Urges Death for 'Economic Terrorists'

PM0811161989 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
5 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial: "How Long Must We Wait To Defeat Economic Terrorists?"]

[Text] During the past few days the price of some goods has risen again higher than ever. What is certain now is that the trend in price rise increases is unnatural. A glance at this situation strengthens the suspicion that there are forces at work aiming to bring the new government to its knees and disappoint the people with regard to the future. This is a pre-planned program which is now coming into effect gradually.

These dirty hands belong to none other than those with a huge cashflow, the middlemen leeches who have not yet had enough of the people's blood. Of course, one must also consider the role of the espionage agencies in guiding this economic and political warfare.

These traitorous elements are naturally very scared of the kind of organized economy which is at the top of the agenda for Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his new cabinet. They do not see a bright future for themselves, and as ever they are seeking their future and their fortune in muddy waters.

What is the solution? It lies, of course, not in one or two issues but rather in the combination of various elements to enable this situation to be confronted. However, there is one lever in all this that can produce quick and radical results in controlling this dangerous situation. The success of any other action depends largely on this element: stern confrontation with the economic terrorists who play an important role in raising prices. We feel that the death sentence is the correct and just punishment for many of them. We stress once more that, unless the middlemen and corrupt economic elements are made to feel insecure, and unless some of them are seen hanging from the gallows, there can be little hope of other programs' being successful.

* Budget, Economy Debated by Majlis Deputies

90OI0019A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
17 Oct 89 p 3

[Text] Legal and Majlis Bureau

The Majlis was convened yesterday morning. The session was first chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi and continued with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan as acting speaker.

After the recitation of some verses from the holy Koran, Messrs. Heydari-Moqqadam, the representative from Alshtar; Enayat, the representative from Khorramabad; Me'mari, the representative from Ahar; and Abu-Talebi, the representative from Bo'inzahra, spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then, after the recitation of the representatives comments to the country's executive officials, Majlis entered into order.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary reporter, the first order was the continuation of the investigation of the first round of consultations by the special commission regarding [word indistinct] of the Iran National Library. The generalities of this plan were ratified by the representatives.

The second order was the report from the Economic and Finance Commission regarding the bill for exemption of taxes on income earned from credit allocated for use by public sector companies. This was ratified by the representatives. The third order was the presentation of the report of the first round of consultations by the Culture and Higher Education Commission in regard to the bill

pertaining to the conversion of the Printing and Publishing Institute of Tehran University to the Printing and Publishing Company, affiliated with Tehran University. The continued investigation of this was postponed until the next session.

The following are the texts of the speeches given by the pre-agenda speakers and details of the discussions:

Mash'allah Heydari-Moqqadam, representative of the people of Delfan and Alshtar:

The first pre-agenda speaker was Mr Mash'allah Heydari-Moqqadam, the representative of the people of Delfan and Alshtar, who pointed out the gruesome killing of nine members of a family by a few murderers in Nurabad township in Lorestan Province which took place on Wednesday, 19 Mehr 1368 [11 October 1989]. He pointed out the qualitative and quantitative dimensions of this crime and the follow up actions, and said: After this crime was committed, immediate contact was made with the judicial branch. Fortunately, in a period of less than 6 hours, with the relentless and timely efforts of His Eminence Ayatollah Yazdi, the order for the arrest of the criminals and implementation of God's decree in the region, under the supervision of the judicial courts of Lorestan, was issued. Immediately after the decree was issued, Mr Morravej-Nya, chief of the Khorramabad criminal courts, accompanied by the magistrate and prosecutor, went to the scene of the murders. In less than 24 hours, the murderers were identified and, as punishment for their heinous crime, were hung in public in the presence of a massive crowd of the Muslim people of Nurabad.

In regard to this event he added: When the people of Nurabad township, who were heartbroken as a result of this crime, witnessed in surprise the swift punishment of the murderers in less than 24 hours, and thus having tasted the sweetness of Islamic justice stoned the bodies of the murderers, in joy repeatedly thanked the chief of the judicial branch and the judges who presided over the proceedings.

Mr Heydari-Moqqadam then wished a long life for the exalted leader of the Islamic Republic and conveyed his thanks to Ayatollah Yazdi, chief of the judicial branch, for his speedy and decisive action leading to the arrest and execution of the culprits of this tragedy in the Nurabad township. He also prayed for his ever increasing success in implementing Islamic justice and achieving judicial security to protect the lives and properties of the people.

He added: In view of the present sensitive situation, and at a time when the world, the arrogance of the West, and mercenary agents have received devastating blows from the Islamic revolution, we expect all of the Muslim people of Iran to adhere to godly piety, to maintain their unity more than ever, and to refrain from polarization. The secret of the Muslim' success is in their solidarity.

While mentioning that one of the most prominent goals of the revolution is the creation of a society on the basis of Islamic justice and the implementation of economic fairness, he pointed out: Economic justice will never be achieved unless the budget and national resources are divided equally among all of the provinces and their regions in accordance with just and amicable standards. This must benefit everyone, creating regional balance throughout all areas of the country. However, 10 years after the holy Islamic revolution, the budget system is still not based on Islamic justice. Contrary to all the slogans about justice and the downtrodden, in practice all and every region tries to get a larger share by every available means and exerting pressure—even though this is at the cost of the share of the deprived regions. This method has resulted in excessive deprivation of the poor regions, and the gap between them and the well-to-do regions has widened. It is for the purpose of eradicating this type of discrimination that fortunately, an article has been included in the corrective bill for the five-year economic, social, and cultural expansion plan, recently ratified by the government. God knows my constituency is deeply deprived, and lacks fundamental and essential services such as roads, safe drinking water, electricity, hospitals, schools, hygiene, and other things. Unemployment is rampant, and there is not even a small factory in order to keep five people busy.

In conclusion, the representative of the people of Delfan and Alshtar made certain remarks to the executive officials in connection with his constituancy.

Mr 'Ali Enayat, the representative of the people of Khorramabad, was the second pre-agenda speaker. In his speech, while pointing out the visit of the exalted leader of the revolution to Lorestan Province, and the addition of three cities to this province, he said: This move has been the reason for laying a new economic foundation for Lorestan Province. We are also thankful for His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i's directive that more attention should be given to the deprived province of Lorestan. He added: Because it is Unity Week, I find it appropriate to note that, God willing, we shall walk in the path of unity and national solidarity. Also, we shall be mindful of tricks and conspiracies by the enemies of the Islamic world so that, God willing, Iran can be proud and powerful in this world.

While expressing hopefulness that Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani will pay more attention to the problems of Lorestan Province, Mr Enayat requested that, in order to evaluate the shortcomings of the province, he should dispatch a delegation to this province and decisive actions should be taken to resolve these problems.

In conclusion, the representative of the people of Khorramabad thanked Ayatollah Yazdi, chief of the judicial branch, for the expeditious action in punishing those convicted and said: Expeditious action, be it in Tehran or in a province, can be very interesting and an exemplary act for all of the judges across the country so that, God willing, they should follow suit.

Qasem Me'mari, representative of the people of Ahar:

The third pre-agenda speaker was Mr Me'mari who, in his speech, warned the respected president of the Islamic Republic about high prices and inflation and said: Excellency, Mr President! In order for your words to be effective on the people, please start with yourself. From the day this regime achieved executive power, everything, small and large, has become more expensive. Come and decisively turn back the prices to the pre-56 [21 March 1977-20 March 1978] prices.

He added: I give the judicial system the right to ruthlessly execute swindlers as the corrupt on earth, and to confiscate their belongings. As far as we can see with what has happened in the past 10 years, there has been no improvement and the situation has turned for the worse. Come and call the people to Islam with a non-rhetorical language, which is your action.

The speaker continued: In decree No 1051 of 68/7/12 [4 October 1989], the Council of Guardians considered the plan for the investigation of judicial matters related to the Majlis deputies as being against the principles of the Constitution and religion, and thus rejected it. I bow to this bravery and kiss their hands. However, come and eradicate all contradictions from all levels. Let the judicial branch and the respected Council of Guardians eradicate all of these contradictions.

Mr Me'mari then pointed out the international issues, Lebanon, the crimes of the Al Sa'ud clan [Saudi royal family], and Unity Week. And in regard to solidarity among the deputies, he said: Deputy brothers and sisters! The fact that you are sitting on blood-colored seats is symbolic of the blood of the self-sacrificing martyrs. Where do you plan to go by fictionalizing and attacking each other? Why have you forgotten so soon, and it is no more than 10 years, who we were, where we were, and who was in power 10 years ago? You and I were not even considered human beings. What happened that pride and negligence kept you from your main mission? In this week of solidarity, for the sake of God, the blood of the martyrs, and the absent imam, come and refrain from these warlike charades and deal with God. Put aside differences of opinion, and, like the fingers of a hand that in appearance are smaller, bigger, and different from each other, let us help the people and try to solve their problems.

In conclusion, he made some remarks to the executive officials of the country.

'Abbas Mirza Abu-Talebi, representative of the people of Bo'inzahra and Avaj:

The last pre-agenda speaker was Mr 'Abbas Mirza Abu-Talebi, the representative of the people of Bo'inzahra and Avaj. On the occasion of the birthday of the Prophet Mohammad, peace be upon him, he congratulated the exalted leader of the revolution and the martyr-nurturing nation, especially the pious people of Bo'inzahra and Avaj, and said: At this time I declare my pleasure that after 10 years of opposition, rhetoric, complaining, weakening the government and the regime, and disobeying the directives of the imam, now, we witness the attention of some of the dear ones to the point that solidarity is a requirement, and one must support the regime and the officials and many other musts. A big problem is resolved and finally the magic has been broken and after a decade these people have seriously repented. It is the cause of much pleasure and we wish that the imam were present to witness this in amazement. We hope these are of true remorse and not as a result of confusion. However, if they try to maneuver and play and, with shining titles, try to question the past decade and smear its achievements to the point of blocking the truth, it will be a matter of great regret.

He added: The turn of events indicate that they intend to give the trusteeship to the ones who are qualified. Are they aware of the disrespect they bring upon the revolution? It seems that during all of the times that have passed, as a result of their absence the affairs of the state has been run by the wrong crowd. What wrong crowd? Those who bore the brunt of the war on their shoulders and with dignity recorded our honorable history. Such matters are brought up with expertise and then the wrongdoings are mentioned as if they are trying to connect those responsible for this corruption to the phenomenon of change. May God forgive such bad thoughts.

He pointed out: These artificial screams and supports are merely in the direction of weakening the thoughts and the mind of the faithful to the revolution. If these are as a result of ignorance, I say to them, in guarding the tree of solidarity and values of the regime, don't be so zealous that water can not reach the roots of the tree. Anyhow, we are pleased that after a decade they found that weakening the executive, legislative, and judicial branches is sacrilegious, the same way that distorting the past history of the revolution and its principles are. After the passing of the imam, solidarity is the secret of our success. We have witnessed the majestic demonstration of the solidarity of our nation. These labels will not effect the belief, resolve, and sacrifices of the children of the revolution.

In another part of his speech, in reference to the government of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, he said: In the reconstruction plans, I request the respected government give priority to the programs that encompass the rights and the comfort of the majority of the people, and especially the downtrodden rather than the well-to-do noise makers. In announcing his support for Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Mr Mirza Abu-Talebi said: The most important factor that must be noted in his support is the recognition of the pariahs of the reconstruction era. If we do not identify them carefully, in the third decade, we will suddenly realize that we are at our original point which was our first decade. In order to fight relentlessly and hard with these pariahs, we must include certain factors in our reconstruction plans. The first one is national mobilization. It means that all of the people

who have become hopeful, after the election of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, that the slogan of social justice will be implemented, and have been present on the scene, now must participate on the scene of reconstruction so that, God willing, this slogan—which was the favorite of the imam—can be implemented. Why haven't the wealthy, those who committed treason during the war and sucked the blood of the martyr-nurturing nation along with the enemy, stopped their differences and made a contribution, other than hoarding and looting the national wealth? Those who are in control of most of the 1,500 billion tomans in cash circulating in the society would like to strike at them, in order to prevent their success in their work and their goals. We must consider that political and economic dominance is no longer a monopoly of governments. It can also come from the social strata, and creates dependence to one side.

He mentioned: We believe that the world of arrogance capitalizes on the rich, who feel no pain and possess no values. These are the ones who, according to the imam, will sell out the country overnight. If we wish to continue our struggle against America, we must be very careful that the financial and economic levers of the our revolutionary society do not fall in to the hands of the capitalist class.

The First Order

The first order was the continuation of the investigation of the report of the first round of consultations, by the special commission, regarding the legal plan for the Constitution of the Iran National Library. Messrs. Dr Shahrzad and Salehabadi spoke against and Fada'i spoke for this matter.

After the commission and government's explanations, the generalities of the plan was put to vote and was approved.

The Second Order

The second order was the report from the Economic and Finance Commission regarding the bill for exemption of taxes on income earned from credits allocated for non-profit plans and also manufacturing or profit-making establishments that, on a case by case basis and in accordance with authorizations from Articles 33 and 48 of the Planning and Budget Law passed in 1351 [21 March 1972-20 March 1973], is given or will be given as grants to public sector companies and, also, financial aid to repair damages resulting from the war, or the government's compensation for damages to individuals. The principle and solitary article of this bill was put to vote and passed.

The Third Order

The third order was the presentation of the report of the first round of consultations by the Culture and Higher Education Commission, in regard to the bill pertaining to the conversion of the Printing and Publishing Institute of Tehran University to the Printing and Publishing Company, affiliated to Tehran University. In this regard, Messrs. Ansari and Movahedi-Savoji spoke in opposition, and Mr Taslimi spoke in agreement. Continuation of discussions was postponed until the next session.

The Double Urgency Plan

In regard to the plan to increase the credit of No 503082 of the Budget Law of 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], which its double urgency was passed in the session of 68/7/23 [15 October 1989], the downgrading from double urgency to single urgency was put to vote and passed by the deputies.

Pakistan

PRC Islamabad Mission Confirms Diplomats Missing

LD0811163489 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1449 GMT
8 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov (TANJUG)—The Chinese Embassy in Islamabad today confirmed that two of its diplomats have disappeared and called on the Pakistani authorities to help find them.

The embassy spokesman failed to disclose the names of the two diplomats, but the Pakistani press repoted that Second Secretary Rehman Anwar and Attache Abdul Karim, Chinese Moslems from the province of Xinjiang, are missing.

According to the Pakistani press, the Anwar and Karim disappeared after Saturday. [sentence as received] The Chinese Embassy announced their disappearance six days before the Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng's visit to Pakistan.

The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad has denied that the Chinese diplomats sought refuge in it.

Canada Appeals for Help Over Missing Aid Worker

BK0711113189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1031 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 7 (AFP)—The Canadian High Commission (Embassy) here asked the Pakistani authorities for help Tuesday in the search for John Tarzwell, director of a humanitarian organisation in Peshawar, on the border with Afghanistan, diplomats here said.

Mr. Tarzwell, 32, from Three Hills in Alberta Province, western Canada, has been missing since November 1, according to Susan Park, a spokeswoman for the high commission.

"We have sent a note to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs asking for the assistance of all the Pakistani agencies," she said.

Mr. Tarzwell, who arrived here 11 months ago to work for the Canada-based Serving Emergency Relief and

Vocational Enterprise (SERVE), was due to return to Canada Monday [6 November] for the birth of his third child.

His wife and their two sons left Pakistan on October 21.

SERVE's office in Peshawar, which runs a mission for Afghan refugees in Pakistan, said it had made contact with the local police who visited Mr. Tarzwell's apartment and found it intact. SERVE said he had "no known enemies."

The theory that Mr. Tarzwell had been kidnapped was not ruled out Tuesday in Peshawar, where sources said Western humanitarian missions to the Afghan refugees were sometimes criticised by Sunni fundamentalist guerrillas.

Dozens of humanitarian organisations have a presence in Pakistan to assist the more than three million Afghan refugees who have fled their homes since the conflict began.

Bhutto Presides Over Sind Cabinet Session 8 Nov

BK0811142889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has urged ministers, assembly members and party workers to establish close contacts with the people. She was presiding over a Sind provincial cabinet session in Karachi this afternoon. The prime minister asked the provincial ministers and advisers to serve people without any discrimination and to work for the stability of democracy.

The session reviewed the law and order situation and considered the difficulties of the provincial assembly members on the implementation of various welfare programs. The session was attended, among others, by Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah.

SAARC Figure Calls on Yaqub Khan 6 Nov

BK0611111489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] The secretary general of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], Mr Bhargava, called on the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, in Islamabad today. They reviewed the SAARC activities with special emphasis on the current ministerial conference.

The foreign minister congratulated the new secretary general on his appointment and assured him of Pakistan's full cooperation toward SAARC.

Minister Discusses Broad-Based Federal Government

BK0811155189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] The minister of state for information and broadcasting, Ahmad Saeed Awan, has said the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] is prepared to set up a broad-based government at federal level for the success of the present democratic process. Speaking to newsmen in Islamabad today, he said the prime minister has already spoken along these lines and is establishing contacts with other political parties.

The PPP will welcome the MRD [Movement for the Restoration of Democracy] parties in the government in order to strengthen and unite democratic institutions. He said the PPP wants to obtain the cooperation of all the democratic forces in the interests of the people. Ahmad Saeed Awan expressed hope that the opposition parties will demonstrate such a spirit and will cooperate with the government in promoting a cordial political atmosphere in the country. He said the prime minister believes in the supremacy of the constitution and parliament and wants the differences on national issues to be settled in Parliament.

The minister of state for information said the PPP opposes the opposition demand for fresh elections, as this sort of step will be harmful to democracy and will not produce the desired results. He said the PPP still has the support of the people in all four provinces, which guarantees a strong federation.

Sri Lanka

Government Ends Nationwide Night Curfew 9 Nov

BK0911050889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0404 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Colombo, Nov 9 (AFP)—A night curfew in force across Sri Lanka since July was ended Thursday [9 November], but security forces will continue operations against anti-government militants, state-run radio said.

The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation said the curfew which ended at 4 a.m. Thursday (2230 GMT Wednesday) will not be enforced again.

The government imposed the curfew at the end of July in response to an escalation of violence attributed to the anti-government front JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna].

Security forces with shoot-on-sight orders have been conducting security operations against militants under emergency regulations during the curfew.

Officials had said that the situation in the country had improved in the past few weeks.

However, a daily death toll is still being reported from political strife in the Indian Ocean island republic related to the JVP and counter operations by the security forces.

The JVP is leading a violent campaign to overthrow the government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa and has been accused of killing over 5,000 rivals in the past two years.

Communique Details Killing of 15 'Subversives'

BK0911113989 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1041 GMT 9 Nov 89

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 9 Nov [LANKAPUVATH]—Fifteen subversives, including four women, were killed at Pussellawa yesterday, a government communique issued today said.

The communique further said that during an exchange of fire between the police and subversives at Pussellawa in the Central Province, 15 subversives, including four women, were killed. Police also recovered from the area revolvers, 12-bore shotguns, cartridges, a landmine, generators, camouflage uniforms, homeguard uniforms and subversive literature.

At Udagama, in the same area, the gramasevaka [low-level rural officer] office was set on fire by subversives and unidentified persons also set fire to a Sri Lanka Transport Board bus at Ambagahawela. At Matale, in the same province, security forces on information, conducted a search operation in Kiriwalhena, killed one subversive and arrested another. Five subversives were arrested by the security forces at Kalukale and Bogawantalawa.

At Hanwella, in the Western Province, police interrogated nine suspects and recovered hand grenades, cartridges and swords.

At Kegalle, in the Sabaragamuwa Province, two subversives were taken in for questioning by the security forces.

In the Southern Province, at Galle, four unidentified gunmen in army type uniforms abducted M. Gunapala and P. Gunapala from their homes and shot them dead. A Sri Lanka Transport Board bus was set on fire by subversives at Kemagoda in the Matara District. At Moneragala, in the same province, during a cordon and search operation, security forces recovered 12-bore shotguns, double barrel shotguns, army ceremonial uniforms, police uniforms, and police caps.

In the North Central Province, at Anuradhapura, subversives fired at a vehicle and injured A. Jayatillake, a United National Party provincial council member of the north central province, his wife, and three national auxiliary force soldiers. The injured were admitted to the Anuradhapura general hospital. At Polonnaruwa, in the same area, the documents of three gramasevaka offices were set on fire by subversives.

A group of unidentified armed men robbed the Kuliyapitiya rural bank in the North Western Province.

In the Eastern Province, at Batticaloa, a group of unidentified persons hijacked 11 tractors and two vans belonging to the Northeast Provincial Council. The IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] troops searched the area and recovered five tractors. At Trincomalee, Nadesan Moorthy was shot dead by a group of unidentified persons, believed to be a LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] act, the communique added.

Colombo Concerned About 'Mysterious Shipment'

BK0911093489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0843 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Colombo, Nov 9 (AFP)—The Sri Lakan Government is concerned about a mysterious shipment unloaded by an Indian Air Force plane at the strategic northeastern port of Trincomalee, a top defence official here said Thursday [9 November].

Defence secretary Sepala Attygalle said the unidentified cargo was unloaded at China Bay airstrip and taken away in nine trucks to nearby Nilaweli coastal town on October 27.

General Attygalle said the shipment was not subject to customs as is the case for all other Indian military supplies arriving in the island's northeast, where Indian troops have been deployed in line with a 1987 bilateral pact.

Asked if the crates may have contained food, the general said it was possible, but the government had its own information. "I don't want to say about it publicly at a press conference," he added.

His remarks came amid reports that Indians had armed a Tamil paramilitary force in the island's northeast to replace their Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) once it leaves the island by the end of the year.

The government had charged that the pro-Indian Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) which controls the northeastern provincial council was raising an illegal army to take on rival militants.

The dominant Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), attacked two EPRLF camps in eastern Ampara region over the weekend, killing 33 people by official count.

The LTTE claims they captured sophisticated weapons, including rockets and mortars, from the two camps to "prove a point" that there was an illegal army being raised by its rival group.

Gen. Attygalle said the situation in Ampara was under control and he did not expect Sunday's clashes in the region to delay the withdrawal of the IPKF by the end of the year as agreed with the Sri Lankan Government.